

April 30, 1999

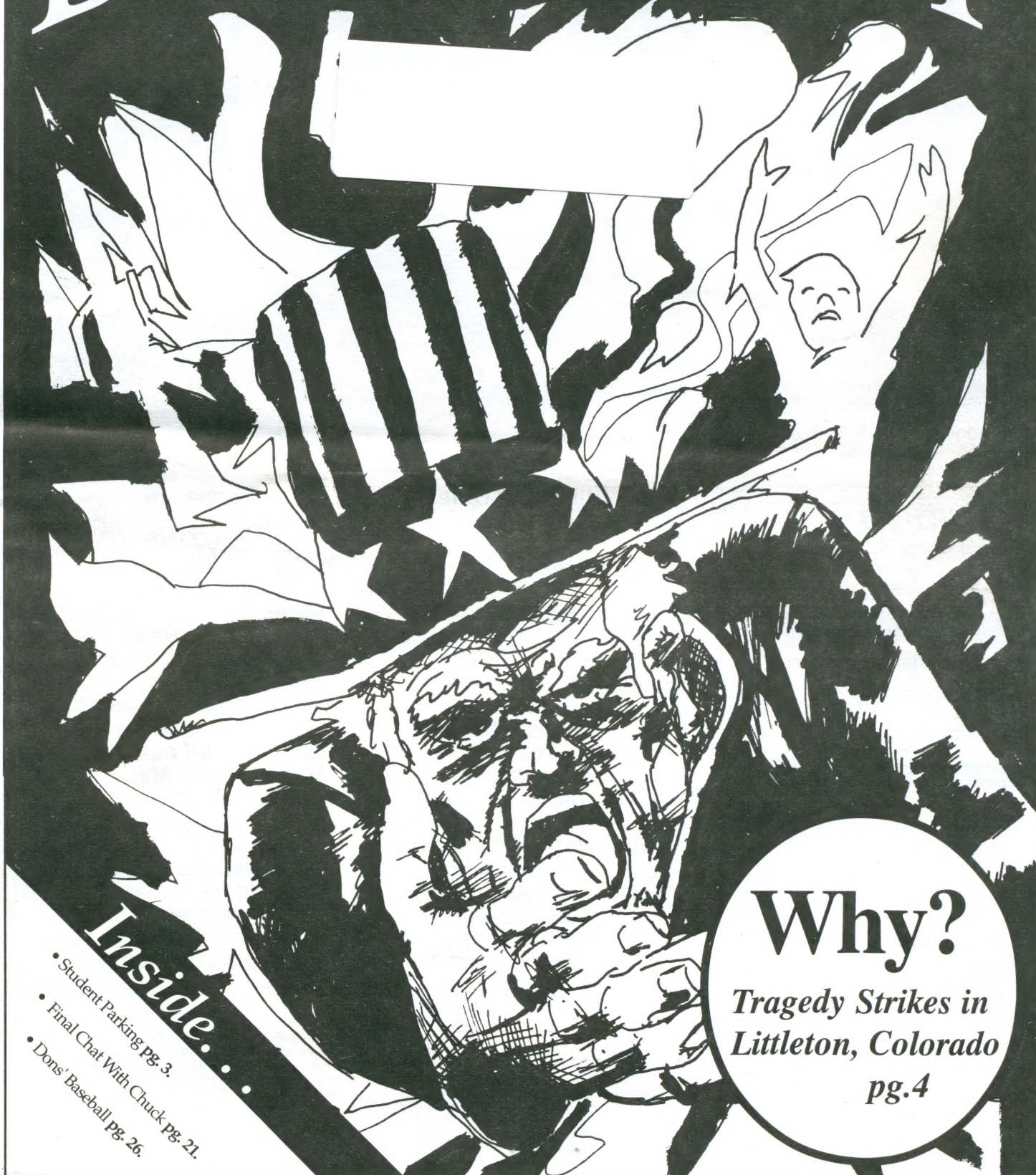
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BLUEPRINT



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Why?

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Littleton, Colorado
pg.4*

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

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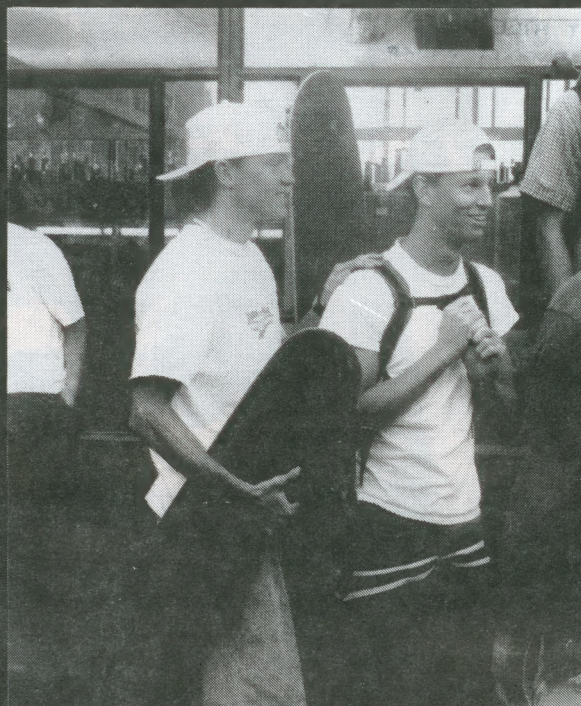
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ON THE COVER: The tragedy in Littleton, Colorado has shocked the world, leaving people asking why and wondering what precautions should be taken.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Seniors Ted Livingston and Brian Enright skateboarded to school to avoid the overcrowded student parking lot.

Blueprint '98-'99

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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ACALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



Local
Businesses
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Blueprint

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PARKING PROBLEM

Portables Accelerate Parking Problem

By Andria Flakoll
Feature Editor

As classroom space increased, so did Acalanes' parking crunch when the entire west-side of the front lot was closed off to make room for the 12 portable classrooms that began arriving April 14.

The portables were expected to arrive during spring break, but due to time constraints, the delivery didn't start until the next Wednesday.

Chris Learned, director of facilities-construction, said that with 19 portable buildings to be split between Acalanes and Las Lomas, the portable manufacturing company didn't have the time to get them built and delivered over spring break.

Although the portables will not be used until the start of the '99-'00 school year, they had to be delivered to prepare for construction set to begin June 14. "When we bring the portables in, we get them electrified and all the utilities go into them," said Learned. "Then before school is out, we bring all the furniture, equipment, books, and everything and get them into the portables, so we can start immediately on construction as soon as school's out. It's all timing, trying to make sure we don't lose any time."

Initially, leadership students set a poor example by parking in the carpool spots without the two required passes said senior Charlie Eaton. "We spoke to the classes and told them we need to set a positive example, and after that we didn't have any dissent from the leadership class."

Eaton and senior Scott Seibert came up with the carpooling idea in November when the future parking problem was first heard of. "Right now we're pursuing it as a temporary solution to the parking problem before leadership can decide on a more permanent solution like senior only parking.



The Leadership class set-up about 50 carpooling spots in the parking lot to help alleviate the parking problem when the portable classrooms were put in place.

We couldn't go to something like that this year because the parking passes had already been sold," said Eaton.

Out of 47 total carpooling spots, 35 were filled by car-poolers on Thursday and 33 on Friday. "The administration has been slow to start putting out written warnings on cars, giving referrals and implementing punishments which is either going to be a regular parking fine or a drop in their citizenship grade," said Eaton.

Students forced to park at Springbrook and the surrounding areas definitely aren't liking the situation. "It's really ridiculous and not something we should be dealing with," said junior Danicela Mancia.

The fight for spots also created tension among some teachers and students. After teacher Wendy Dunstan parked in the front lot, a student left an angry note on her car asking, "Isn't this the student

lot?!" Dunstan said "I do understand the student concerns, and I have parked in the back lot sometimes to try to free up spaces, but I'm not promising that I always will."

The portables will take the place of the lower 400 wing including rooms 409-413 and 311-315 which will be constructed into a two story building with a total of six to seven classrooms, three classrooms more than currently in place. This is due to increased enrollment and class size reduction. The remaining two portables will accommodate an increase in freshman English and World History classes due to downsizing with additional funding from the state

Learned expects the construction should take approximately 10 months, however Vice Principal Bucci thinks that figure might be too good to be true. The last renovation at Acalanes started in 1989 and wasn't completed until 1994.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Targeting the Causes of Youth Violence

Examining what triggered the Columbine massacre

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer

When we see school massacres by students, we immediately begin to question the structure of our society: Why would a teenager do something like this? Where did we go wrong? Who can we blame? What could we have done? What can we do to prevent it from happening again?

Most violence prevention organizations and psychiatric experts agree that the solution lies in reexamining how society raises its children.

School shootings by youths are a relatively new phenomena in society. Most have occurred in the past three years, according to the Violence Prevention Center, a gun-control research organization. There have been about 10 incidents, including the one at Columbine High School, since 1997.

In a press release, Erna Furman, the President and Executive Council of the Association for Child Psychoanalysis, called upon parents to strictly monitor their children's activities with guns and violence in the media.

"Without a comprehensive assessment of the individual child's personality as well as of general societal factors, we cannot find solutions," wrote Furman.

Dr. Austin Hearst, a psychologist with Lamorinda Psychiatry, agreed that the parents are a key factor in a teen's mental state, but he said there are also several other factors, especially in the Columbine shootings.

"You have a bunch of building blocks. Eventually if you have one too many, they tip over," said Hearst. "Movies was one block, teasing was another, parents were a big block, games, guns, alienation.... Eventually, there were just too many."

He also said, however, that "a healthy kid can distinguish between (games) and

reality and know that violence is wrong. Disturbed kids begin to get confused."

Hearst maintained that the best program to prevent shootings in the future is parent education in communication with their children. He said the Columbine massacre could have been averted had the parents been more aware.

"The bottom line is that the parents were out of touch with these kids in a very fundamental way," said Hearst. "How could the parents not know what those kids were planning?"

"Kids need to respect each other."

-Joe Matteucci Foundation for Youth Non-Violence

Alexandra Matteucci, founder of the Joe Matteucci Foundation for Youth Non-Violence, said that the most important thing to maintain regarding school is communication between students and adults.

"Young people know there will be something long before the administration knows," said Matteucci. She suggested that every school have an anonymous hotline where students can tip off adults without being called a "stoolie".

Matteucci also stressed the importance of mediation programs within schools. "It's important for students to be able to have a place where they can air out their differences," said Matteucci. "Kids need to respect each other."

Carleen Ray, spokesperson for the Center for the Prevention of School Violence (CPSV), said we need "more of an awareness program, where people get conflict management training and training about warning signs."

Dr. Wang, a child psychiatrist from Walnut Creek Hospital, identified the warning signs as drinking, drugs, paranoia, preoccupation with violence, constant depression, and severe feelings of alienation.

"We need to look at those children who are not functioning right and inform each other," said Wang.

Matteucci, however, said that these warning signs are common to adolescents.

"We all felt a little depressed and alienated growing up," said Matteucci. "Add the element of violence, and it's scary."

Matteucci also said that media and gun control were contributors to the frequency of youth violence, but we need to review our own lives before blaming outside factors.

"Why can't we as a society say what are we doing wrong? The answers are not easy," said Matteucci. "We need to take on the

responsibility for ourselves."

Ray of the CPSV said, "You just need to make sure that (the students) aren't afraid to get involved."

In a press release last week, the National Rifle Association said that school administrators should keep concealed weapons to fight back in times of crisis.

However, NRA spokesperson Jim Manowan, refused to comment on the plan or the shootings.

"I have nothing to say at this time. We feel that it is not right to talk about the politics behind a tragedy like this," said Manowan.

When asked about the NRA proposal, Ray laughed.

"Administrators are not trained to handle that type of situation, they are trained in discipline issues, not criminal issues," said Ray. "Well, that's just scary."

Fight Crime-Invest in Kids, a Washington D.C.-based organization, has a four-step plan to reduce school violence—the Youth Violence Prevention Plan. It calls for after-

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

school, weekend, and summer programs to keep kids occupied, childcare for preschoolers and babies, a program to "help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age," and the prevention of child abuse through parent education.

Bill Christesen, research director of

Fight Crime-Invest in Kids, said, "It's time we invest in programs that will save lives and save money. We can't let this sort of tragedy happen again."

Principal Keith Schmidt said the school does have several programs to prevent incidents like this, such as parent

education, warning sign studies, and tolerance training.

Tolerance "is a subject we want to hit the whole year," said Schmidt. "There are a number of places where this can and should be (done). It's a recurring theme."

CLOSE TO HOME

Acalanes Students React to the Columbine Shootings

Acalanes students were shocked after the April 20 shootings in Littleton, Colorado. The school paid its tributes by wearing blue and silver, the Columbine school colors, two days after the massacre. The questions, fears, and sympathies still remain.

Most students felt that problems with society were to blame. Among the problems identified were family structure, lack of respect, and students mistreating each other.

"I think it is a combination of all factors and the fact they were tortured for a year...."

— Lindsey Spirey, sophomore

"Society has no kind of support for these kinds of kids these days.... Their parents are often out to work.... There just isn't the kind of support there used to be back in the 50's.... It isn't just an issue with kids, but a general problem with our entire country as a violent society."

— Gene McDonough, junior

"I was basically disgusted. I felt so much sorrow for the families of the victims, as well as the families of the (suspects).... Its just an atrocity."

— Erika Shipley, senior

"They were obviously very unhappy kids. They didn't really feel like they fit in. Something just happened, snapped in them, and they went over the edge, that most people don't go beyond."

— Dana Botche, senior

"No, it's not the media. It's the parents and the kids. The kids, if they had problems, should have gotten help and the parents should have known they were building bombs in the garage."

— Ljuba Miljkovich, sophomore

"They were a couple of loners that were mocked as kids. They had a bitterness toward society, and their school. They just decided to take it way too far, and were obviously sick and twisted."

— Brian Rothberg, sophomore

"I think it was the lack of promotion of student diversity in the school campus... and it was a lack of awareness overall on the administrators', parents', and teachers' side."

— Gordon Shen, junior

"To prevent future (incidents), the only... feasible thing I can think of is gun control."

— Damon Peters, junior

"(My reaction was) indifference. Complete and total indifference."

— Orion Wolfe, junior

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Local Businesses Pledge To Support

By **Brianne Kennedy**
Staff Writer

Although statistics regarding the money raised to support local school programs reflect well on the community as a whole, only a small percentage of the funds are donated by local businesses and corporations.

The Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation (LASF), which has an annual budget of approximately \$550,000, receives only four percent of its funds from businesses and corporations.

Likewise, the Acalanes District Education Foundation (ADEF), which runs the career centers of the five Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) high schools on an annual budget of \$30,000, receives practically all of its funds from parents and other community members.

Part of the reason that there doesn't seem to be much financial support from local businesses is because "the foundations really haven't asked that much," said LASF Acalanes Committee chairman Bob Kelso.

Affirming that fact, Gerriann Smith, president of ADEF, said that her foundation doesn't even really solicit donations from local businesses at all.

AUHSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Larry Larson agrees that businesses really just aren't approached by the local foundations of the school district itself, which also accepts donations.

"It's the right time for us to get involved with that," he said.

It would make sense for local real estate businesses to be the first places called by either of the foundations as, according to Larson, "[Real estate] is one of the most robust businesses in our area."

Only three of the more than thirty real estate companies represented in the

Lafayette area donate money to LASF.

One of the three, Kimball Real Estate Associates, has been donating regularly for over ten years; last year in an amount under \$250. The other two companies are United California Brokers of Lafayette, which donated over \$1,000 last year, and Mitchell Properties, which donated less than \$100.

Jim Kimball, principal of Kimball Real Estate Associates, said that his company donates money because, "LASF focuses

local school quality as a selling point "all the time."

The unwillingness to donate money without being asked seeps far beyond the boundaries of the real estate community, though, as only twenty-one of the over 800 business in Lafayette contribute to LASF.

Both Smith and Kelso were quick to say that money is not the only thing that businesses can and do donate. According to Kelso, it is not uncommon for

businesses to donate such things as coffee (in the case of generous local brewer Papillon), old computers, or left over paper supplies.

Even so, money is what the school can benefit from the most. "Money is a big, big issue," said Larson. "It gives us lower class sizes, it sometimes gets us more technology, it gets us things for the library;... things that money can buy. The things that just couldn't become part of our budget.

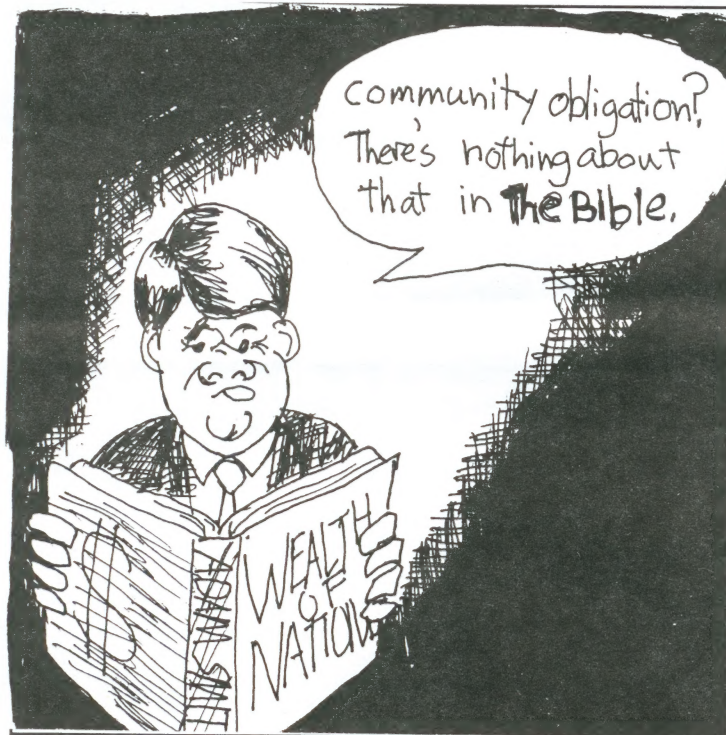
The most promising mode of acquiring business to school donations seems at this point to be partnerships that use means other than money, and involve both groups. In an important first step, AUHSD and LASF are joining forces to promote school-business partnerships.

"We have something to offer and they have something to offer," said Larson.

"There are going to be [many] more partnerships," said Kelso. It is the forming of these partnerships that is going to take the longest amount of time.

"It's like building a building," he said, outlining the process as an analogy to forming relationships between businesses and schools. "Together, it makes the whole community vibrant."

"If we can find a way of getting a really energetic partnership going," said Larson, "everybody benefits. There is no downside."



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

on the special qualities of life," and, "A community is only as good as the people who live in it."

Ironically, one of the reasons that the real estate industry is so "robust" in this area is the unparalleled quality of the local schools. Quality which can be traced back to the extra programs that are financed by the donations made to LASF, ADEF, and the school district.

"The majority of the people that choose to live in Lafayette do so because of the very high ratings that the Lafayette School District and the Acalanes Union High School District enjoy," Kimball said. He also said that agents in his office use

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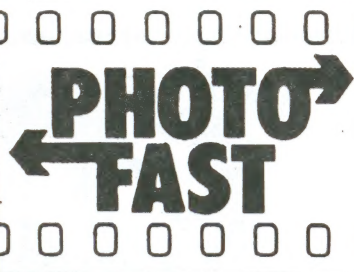
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NATO

Students Express Mixed Sentiments

By Damon Diederich

Staff Writer

While NATO seems clear on its plans in Yugoslavia, Acalanes students have mixed opinions on what to do there.

A recent student survey by *Blueprint* showed that proponents of intervention have a narrow four percent lead over those who want NATO out of Yugoslavia.

"I think we should be involved in Kosovo," said sophomore Chris Fan. "Humanitarian needs there exceed all political concerns. We have a kind of righteous cause."

The majority of students who agree with intervention also agree that there should be ground troops sent to fight in Yugoslavia. Junior Damon Peters said, "Bombs don't discriminate. I would rather see a joint NATO ground force fight, who can distinguish soldiers from civilians."

Senior YingYing Chi, on the other hand, felt that ground troops should be used for the sole purpose of securing Kosovo and ending the need for NATO involvement.

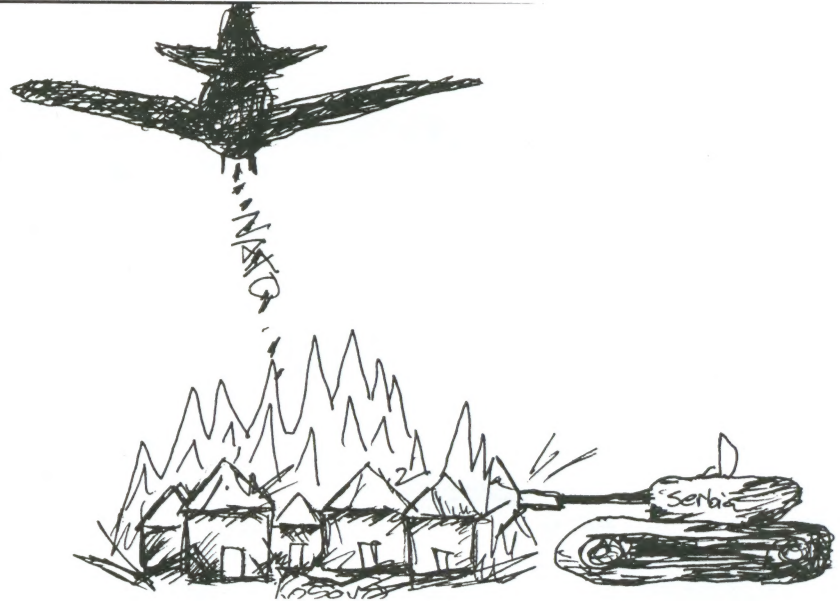
Almost all the students interviewed feel that troops in the Kosovo province could bring about a quicker end to the conflict. Sixty percent of students, though, feel that the American people should have been able to have a larger say in the commencement of the bombing.

The student body was split on the issue of loss of lives in the conflict. Half of students felt that the bombing campaign was worth the loss of aircraft and the lives of their pilots.

"I feel that genocide should be prevented," said one student, explaining why he supported American involvement despite the losses.

One problem many students have with the current involvement in Yugoslavia is the scale of the bombing. "I decided bombing was all right because of the human rights violations in Kosovo, but don't support the current scale of bombing (e.g.: the television station that was destroyed)," said Chi.

Students also note a problem with the way the NATO alliance was fighting the war. Students feel that the United States was running the show practically alone and that the NATO allies should be given equal say



in the progression of the war. "The U.S. should give more power to its NATO allies," said Peters.

As for the non-interventionist standpoint of view, 38% of students disapprove of the campaign in Yugoslavia. Half of students disagree with a conservative plan to give funds to the KLA and "keep our boys out of the war." Only 10% of students think that an unconditional withdrawal was in our best interest. "I don't (think NATO should be in Yugoslavia). It's not our business," said freshman Tyler Cushing.

This is the first time ever that NATO has intervened militarily.

Forty seven percent of those with an opinion thought that the NATO strikes violated the UN charter. Chi added that the bombings violate the sovereignty of Yugoslavia.

Students felt an overall anxiety about the possible outcomes of the war. Many are concerned about the possibility of an American commitment of ground troops. While the bombing campaigns were fairly well accepted by students, the possibility of a full war in Yugoslavia left most students cold. "I'm worried about the war developing into a full war," said sophomore Zoe Palitz.

Two thirds of students think that NATO peacekeeping troops should be stationed in Kosovo after the end of the war. A large

majority of students (81%) feel that NATO should turn over business in Yugoslavia to the UN upon cessation of hostilities.

Sixty nine percent of students think that Serb president Slobodan Milosevic and his officials should be tried for war crimes. Milosevic is widely denounced by students, who overwhelmingly see a great need to remove him from his position of power. Only 38% of students think that leaders of the KLA should be tried for war crimes.

As a general rule, student sympathies lay with the Kosovar Albanians. Fifty percent of students were sympathetic to the Kosovars. Six percent of students sympathized with the Serbs, while 39% cared little for either side. A factor that made the decision hard for students was the fact that the Kosovars had once helped the Nazis purge the Serbs, making this the time of bitter Serb revenge.

"No easy answers" is a theme that appears again and again in the war in Yugoslavia. So many situations exist in Yugoslavia that have no black and white, but a daunting field of gray. Students found it hard to endorse a particular method of action, since each had considerable pros and cons. Through the war in Yugoslavia, Acalanes seems to be learning that wars (such as in Yugoslavia) have no easy answers.

INTERVIEW

Inside the Mind of a Columbine High Student

Blueprint photographer Will McCosker interviewed Columbine High School sophomore Tim Nep about the fatal shooting that occurred at his school in Colorado on Tuesday, April 20. His account of the events is below.

Everything was normal until lunchtime. There was no sign of anything. I was there in the cafeteria. That's where the student store is. I was just buying food when people started running out of the cafeteria doors shouting, like, "he's got a gun," and I turned and looked and everyone was going to the floor, telling everyone to get on the floor. I just kind of jogged out with the people who were running because I had no idea how serious it was. I didn't even see the people or hear any gun shots. I didn't hear (pipebombs) until I was on the other side of the street. I was pretty lucky.

I was in the student store (when the shooting began). I bought a drink and paid five dollars. I didn't even get my change I just took off. I had my drink in my hand and I ran out the door. There was a kid running that ran into me and I spilled my drink all over me. I was still jogging. I didn't know... how serious... There's a corner in the building of the school. We were standing there 'cuz we didn't know what was going on. One of the kids, the one that bumped into me jumped into a car with somebody else and took off...

Tons of people were running out of the doors. That's when I first realized how serious it was. So we all ran across the street to where the park was. We were out there for a while. None of the people I was standing with knew how serious it was. I don't

think (the reality has set in yet)... I'm going to my friend's funeral tomorrow. That will be a reminder.

(I knew) Matt Kechter (personally). He was 16. Yea (he was a sophomore), he was on my football team. (Another guy I was) not really friends with, but I've talked to is Isaiah Shoels. He was the black kid who was killed (in the library)... so was Matt...

Yeah, tomorrow (I'm going to his funeral). I'll go to Isaiah's later on in the week.

BP: Do you think they're going to close school down since there's only a month left?

TN: We've already found out what we're going to be doing for the rest of the year. There's another school called Chapfeild, kind of like your guys' Campo. They're going to go (to school) from seven to twelve. And then after that, we're going

to go to school from ...one to six for the rest of the year.

BP: How do you think this could have been prevented?

TN: I really don't think it could have been. because they came in from the parking lot and just started shooting. There was no warning.

BP: Did you ever see anybody ever make fun of them?

TN: I didn't see anybody. I've seen Dylan maybe in school, but I mean he was just himself...I didn't know them

BP: How are people coping? Has it kicked in yet?

TN: For a lot of people it has...Most people are just hanging out with their friends and stuff...talking about what happened. That's pretty much how they're coping. They go to a lot of memorial services. A lot of people think that there were more than two people for sure. For a lot of people there is no doubt. A lot of my friends were in the science room with the teacher that died, Mr. Sanders. No (I didn't have him). They said they could hear shots from all directions from the school. That's a lot of area

for two people (to cover). I think so (more gunmen may have gotten out). You never know.... A friend of mine said that in class, they weren't like, 'Lets just go kill people.'... During lunch, this girl I know, she was going out for lunch in her car...While she was going out of the parking lot, the kid, ummm Eric Harris...He stopped in front of her car... right before they went in and shot people, he was on his way to do it... he was just staring at her and she was getting irritated...luckily she didn't, like shout something at him. She just smiled and waved and he gave her a weird smile and walked away...pretty weird. She was the one who told that they were normal kids at school... They kind of like, had two personalities... she had classes with both of them.

(There were) maybe forty (people in the library)...probably less...I know two people that were in there that aren't dead... that got away...I've heard a lot of stories about this...they were in there killing people, and for some reason, they left the library. After a minute, a lot of people took off...

BP: Were your two friends that were at the library in there when the killings began?

TN: Yeah, (they were there and saw people being killed) I talked to one of them... he said when they were in there, they were like, "if there's any jocks in here, stand up now." then nobody stood up. then they said, "if you're a jock, you're dead." Then they said, "Hey, there's that nigger. And then they shot him." That was Isaiah. I feel really lucky because if that were to happen 5 to 10 minutes later, I might be dead because I was gonna go to the library and do my spanish homework. I was one of the first people out... I was right by the door, so I didn't hear anything...It's scary to know that people are capable of doing this. It's just scary.

NUGGETS

AHS Model UN Slams the Gavel at Stanford

By Jeni Wolowic

Staff Writer

Four bangs of the gavel rang out, sounding victory for Acalanes students as they walked away with four of the five gavels, the most prestigious award, at the Stanford Model United Nations Conference, held from April 16 to 18.

Acalanes won 8 of the 15 awards given there, including four gavels given to Charlie and Chris Eaton, YingYing Chi, Nathalie de Leon, Jeff Yuen and John Wurzel.

Gavel winner John Wurzel said, "I'm very proud of winning, but it would have been better if they gave the award to the best delegation instead of the best delegate."

"Yingying and I went in just wanting to get our resolutions passed. We didn't think of the awards, but we're glad we got them," Nathalie de Leon said about her win.

Model UN allows students to simulate

the real United Nations, by going to committees and debate about subjects students have done research on and creating resolutions to solve these problems.

Model UN advisor Ramsey Thomas said Acalanes succeeds because "we have a wonderful group of kids who have good social skills, are good speakers, and are very good at debating."

Sophomore Elizabeth Shrafman also said, "Acalanes does well because the people we send know what's going on in the world today, and know how to come up with solutions to the problems they're faced with at the conferences."

Shrafman also said, "I like going because we try to solve world issues and we have the opportunity to use critical thinking along with the chance to meet people we wouldn't meet otherwise and it's a fun thing to do with your friends."

Acalanes also won Best Delegation at the Berkeley Conference held in March, which hasn't occurred in over 15 years, even though only four people went to represent Trinidad and Tobago.

Those who attended the Berkeley Conference included seniors Mike Pinkel, Charlie Eaton, Ellen Love, and Jason Lieth.

Pinkel said they did exceptionally because, "We went with a small group of very good people who had won many gavels at other conferences."

"I'm very determined and I'm in a room with a lot of smart people so I work very hard at getting support, making speeches, and being aggressive," Pinkel said. "We were also the only ones who formed our information into resolutions and were the first submitted, copied, and distributed to other delegates."

MATH OLYMPIAD

Imagine a test so hard that it took four hours to answer the five math problems on the test. This is what Acalanes students faced just before spring break.

For the first time ever, Acalanes students participated in the Bay Area Math Olympiad (BAMO) to test their math skills against some of the hardest problems ever to face high school residents.

As Acalanes math teacher Rich Klier (the organizer of the event at Acalanes) said, "Just as we have some fine musicians, we also have some fine mathematicians."

This test was designed to recognize excellence in math. Acalanes was roughly in the middle of the results, but senior Jason Lieth did win third place in the division for seniors by correctly answering three of the five questions.

Students seemed very enthusiastic about this event (which only happens in the Bay Area) and Klier labeled it a success. "We wouldn't do it if the kids weren't interested," said Klier.

-Damon Diederich



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

An Indigenous Ecuadorean visited Acalanes classrooms April 1 to encourage students to live in harmony with their ecosystem.

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GAY TEENS

Coming Out and Coming To Terms *Acalanes Gay Teens Tell Their Stories*

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

"I was the school fag," says sophomore Joe DeCosta, one of Acalanes few "out" gay students, in regard to his former school. "I was assaulted a couple times—verbally, physically." DeCosta has been faced with so much harassment and student homophobia that he hardly winces at telling his seemingly difficult story.

"I've always felt different from all the other kids—like all the other straight kids that I've known, and I didn't know what that difference was or have a word for it until I was seven...I didn't tell anybody until my eighth grade year, and that's when I told my friends. I actually didn't tell my family until freshman year, he said. "If you're a gay male, it's not as hard to tell your mother because she's going to be the parent that you're going to identify with most likely, but the dad thing can be hard, and it was hard for me, because most fathers have the expectation that their

sons will grow up and have a nice wife and nice kids..."

DeCosta says that although his

fact most students, have not been as open. "Within the general population, it's so cool to be homophobic that it's really hard to get a positive reaction," he said.

DeCosta says he was physically assaulted more than once at his old high school, but he said Acalanes has proved to be a safer campus so far. "It was like going from an ultra-conservative area to just a conservative area."

Still, the end to physical harassment is not an end to verbal harassment. "There has been and will be verbal comments," he said. "The one word I really despise is faggot...If someone is directing it at you in a really harmful way trying to hurt you, that's when it gets harmful."

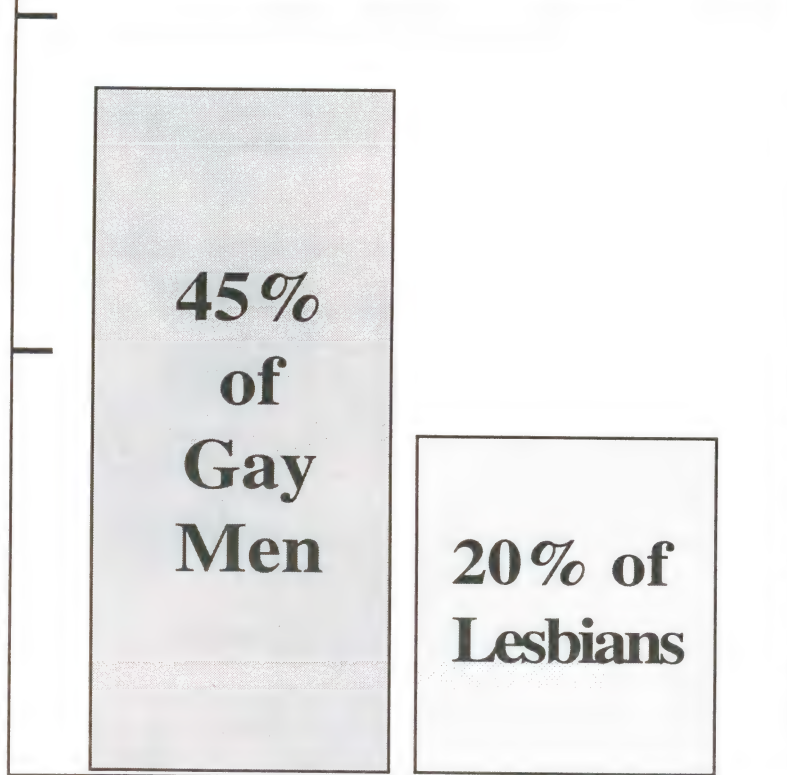
At the same time, many Acalanes students consider "fag" part of their daily vocabulary and DeCosta acknowledged that the word is often not even meant to demean a sexual preference.

friends have generally been extremely supportive of him and accepting of his sexuality, many, in

ual preference.

Statistics released by The Safe Schools Project, which focuses on

Percentage of Students Who Have Been Subjected To Verbal Abuse and or Physical Violence as a Result of Homophobia



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

GAY TEENS

overcoming homophobia at the school level, reveal that "97% of students in public high schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from their peers."

Many of these comments are directly aimed at gay or lesbian students. The survey went on to tell that "45% of gay males and 20% of lesbians report having experienced verbal harassment and/or physical violence as a result of their sexual orientation during high school."

DeCosta said he has already had to talk to administrators at Acalanes regarding cases of verbal harassment, not just on campus, but in actual classrooms. "In the board policy it says that harassment on the basis of sexual orientation is punishable just as much as sexual harassment, but when you report (h o m o p h o b i c harassment), the administration isn't acknowledging it," he said.

In addition to his frustration over a lack of discipline for verbal harassment, DeCosta also encountered problems at his former high school, where he says he was physically assaulted on more than one occasion.

"The school handled it like a fight. And with most fights, they call the police, but they didn't, so my dad had me call the police. I didn't tell them specifically that I was gay. I just told them I was assaulted. Had I said it was because I was gay, they probably would have said, 'Sucks for you,'" said DeCosta.

Judith Chambers, consultant to Portland, Oregon public schools, said most schools do not take a strong

enough stance on homophobia. "Schools should make it as bad as racial remarks," she said.

DeCosta helped to organize Acalanes participation in a nation-wide "Day of

is not sure whether students call him names because of his sexuality, which he says he does not flaunt, or because he "wears all black."

One common cause of homophobia at the high school level is actually pre-conceived notions about homosexuality, said Julie Lienert, Project Director of the Safe Schools Project and member of Catholic Charities of the East Bay. Lienert said students are often influenced by the homophobia that might surround them, even at a

"I just told them I was assaulted. Had I said it was because I was gay, they probably would have said, 'Sucks for you,'"

-Joe DeCosta.

Silence" for the homosexual men, women and students across the country who have been silenced by hate and bigotry.

Chambers and DeCosta do not stand

young age.

She also explained that having a personal relationship with a gay or lesbian person, be it a family member or close friend, is helpful to students is overcoming the fears they might have about homosexuality. That way, "students can go beyond the myths and the stereotypes to reality," said Lienert.

Chambers said that the most important thing students can do to help their friends who may be questioning their

sexuality is to "be supportive and be open...and understand sexual diversity."

An informational packet also released by The Safe Schools Project emphasized that knowledge about homosexuality is key in putting an end to homophobia. Knowledge of the issue often helps people feel more comfortable with the idea of homosexuality. "Be a

supportive, approachable person," said Lienert.

Also, Lienert said having the courage to speak out against homophobia in the classroom or otherwise is key to putting an end to the prejudice.

People are always saying 'fag' and stuff, but if someone said something about the Pacific Rim Club, it'd be in the newspapers,"

-Josh Dietch

alone in the fight against homophobia. Sophomore Josh Dietch, who will be helping out at the three-part session on dealing with homophobia for Acalanes

"97% of students in public high schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from their peers."

teachers and is a bisexual student himself, expressed a similar frustration. "People are always saying 'fag' and stuff, but if someone said something about the Pacific Rim Club, it'd be in the newspapers," said Dietch, who says he

SENATORS

Education At The Highest Level of Change

By Julie Zorn and
Heather Klurfeld

Co-editor-in-chief and Staff Writer

Although California legislators agree that education needs to get back on track, it will remain at risk of being derailed as long as our elected representatives can not agree on a plan for attaining that goal.

Forty-three legislators responded to a *Blueprint* survey which inquired about the quality of education in California. Many people feel that California public schools do not provide effective institutions to cultivate young minds. While the majority of the California legislature agrees with this statement and proposes new ideas for reform in public education, few resolutions have been passed to remedy the situation.

The majority of the California Senate and Assembly attended public schools. Of the 43 legislators that responded to a *Blueprint* survey of both houses of the entire state legislation, all of them felt that they received a good education in their day whether they attended public or private schools. Many feel that the California education system has steadily declined since and today fails to meet the standards of their era. Senator John Lewis (R 33rd district) "would give public education a C-."

While many senators support public education, the majority feel that public education in California today is poor and needs improvements. Assembly member Dennis Cardoza (D 26th district), who supports public schools, feels that there needs to be drastic reform in the educational system.

The members of the California Assembly have proposed many solutions to cure what they see as an ailing system. The top priority is increased spending. California is \$700 below the average national per pupil spending. Most senators and assembly members feel that California, once one of the top states in the country in education, needs to meet or exceed this average. According to Senator Deborah Ortiz, there is a different emphasis in schools today: "Generally, society isn't making an equal investment of any kind into our education

system."

Ortiz, like many other senators, feels that money towards class size reductions, lengthened school years, and improved facilities would aid in the education struggle.

Senator Dick Monteith (R 12th district) believes that we "shouldn't increase spending until we reform the system." Monteith, along with many other Republicans, feels that the lack of funds is not the problem, but rather the employment of the existing funds as the issue.

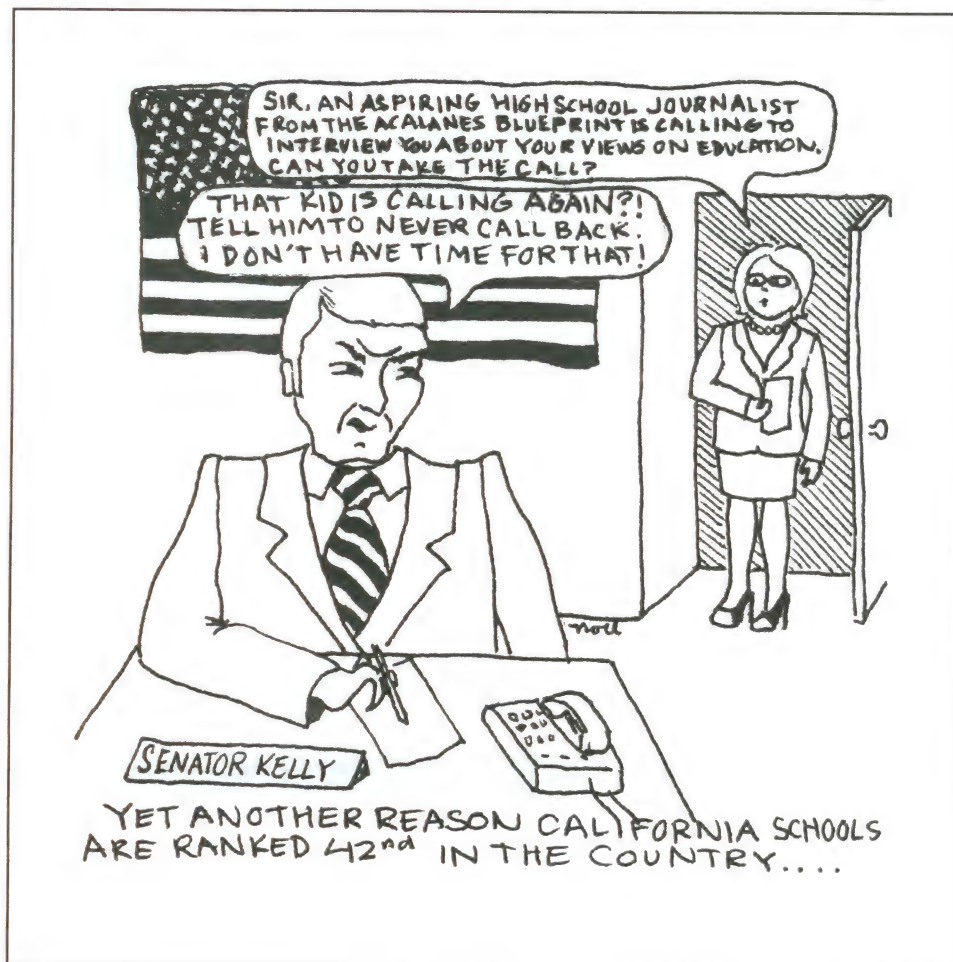
Senator Richard Mountjoy (R 29th district) agrees: "It is not always the case that more finding means better programs." Senator Ray Haynes points out that the amount of money spent is irrelevant; the five top states in education are below the national average.

However, many teachers, and the majority of the Democrats, feel that the road

to improvement is paved with gold. "I think money and reform go hand in hand," said Spanish teacher Andrea Strate. "It's difficult to reform without the funds to back up the new programs."

Government teacher Mike McAlister shares this opinion, believing that schools need to improve their facilities in order to teach more effectively. McAlister would like to see the money invested in class size reduction. With class size reduction, teachers can give more time and attention to each student. Ideally McAlister would like to see no more than twenty students in a classroom: "It's beneficial for both the teachers and the students."

With money a controversial issue, many senators believe another flaw in education is the teachers. The education system set in California makes it difficult to fire ineffective teachers. In addition, poor teachers are paid



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

SENATORS

the same amount as competent teachers. Some senators have suggested paying teachers on the basis of merit—pay for how well or how effective they teach. Other suggestions included a more rigorous and difficult credentialing program, more curriculum flexibility, or having a more “concrete” process in which teachers are evaluated.

The most popular solution, though, is the end of tenure. Senator Lewis aptly points out that “no other job has tenure.” However, McAlister challenges Lewis, saying that there is, in essence, no tenure. “The administration can get rid of anyone it wants to.” McAlister feels that without the tenure “insurance”, though, the teaching profession is in jeopardy. “Teachers...are in a very vulnerable position. Not giving them any protection at all... leaving them to the whim of the community puts their jobs in jeopardy.”

If ineffective teachers cannot be removed, though, the California Senate and Assembly wishes to recruit bright and skilled people into the teaching profession. The proposals included giving teachers higher salaries, giving them the freedom to teach their own curriculums, or placing a “higher value on teachers,”

said Senator Jack O’Connell (D 18th district). Senators and Assembly members believe that a way to improve teaching standards is to offer incentives such as paying off teacher loans.

While McAlister feels that he is “wealthy in many other ways,” both he and Strate agree that the only way to attract more and better teachers is to double the salary. Strate recognizes that “a lot of people are deterred from the profession due to the lack of salary.” Music teacher Karen Linford feels that teachers need to be given the necessary supplies to complete their jobs: “In almost every other job you’re given the supplies you need to complete your job thoroughly. Not in teaching, though.”

Many teachers and Assembly members agree that more teachers could be recruited if they were given greater freedom in their classrooms. Both McAlister and Linford

feel that teachers should be given less restrictions on their curriculum. Senator Cathie Wright (R 19th district) agrees: We demand too much out of the system and not enough time to teach it. It was suggested that each school district dictates its own curriculum in an effort to satisfy its own needs.

The way to reform is through local school boards, said local senator Richard Rainey. Rainey express the view that is congruent with the rest of the legislature. Thirty-one of the 43 legislators believe that change needs to occur at the local level. Education is critical at the local level, they reiterate.

It is impossible, many believe, for the state to mandate curriculums throughout California. This state is just too diverse, said Senator Betty Karnette (D 27th district). “There should be local control... each district

for underprivileged students, such as low income children, minority children, and children with learning disabilities. According to a study by the Hudson Institute’s In Action Project, the top reason for attending a charter school is high quality teachers that ensure that their students understand the material. One problem that students cited at charter schools were the lack of extra-curricular activities. Only 3 legislators offered charter schools as an alternative to the public education system in California.

The focus in the Lamorinda area is centered not upon the education the child receives in high school, but more so on the grades that are produced and the college the child attends. McAlister feels that society is “losing focus on what it means to be a good human and increasing the focus on what it means to be a great student.” McAlister feels

that there is too much of an emphasis on AP classes and grades that society is losing sight of the child as whole. Both McAlister and Linford agree that AP classes, while they are important, are gradually replacing the “fun” elective classes, such as music and art, to the detriment of the student.

Strate agrees with McAlister that there is a great deal of pressure on the

children to excel above expectations in school. She feels that kids should be graded largely on their effort than on points to help alleviate the stress.

Students feel that, while it would be nice not to place an emphasis on grades, they are the basis of what colleges look at. “Colleges don’t care about what you’ve learned... they only get to look at the grade.” The grades, for most colleges, is the primary way to measure students’ successes in high school. It is, what they believe, an pseudo-accurate testament to the knowledge the student has obtained and the effort put forth in high school.

Regardless of the Senate proposals, McAlister feels that the solutions, while a positive effort in the right direction, will not be truly effective. “It’s easy to fix things in the abstract, but it’s hard to fix things when you get down to the absolutes.”

**"I would give public
education a C-."**
-Senator John Lewis

is different. Senator O’Connell agrees: “The local school boards know what their communities need.”

One possible road for reform in the educational system is to implement vouchers, which are also known as scholarships where the student can choose to attend a public or private school. Funds for the child’s education are redirected to individual families rather than the school districts.

Although the voucher plan is one alternative to try to improve education, sixteen of the 43 legislators opposed implementing them. Assembly member Susan Davis (D 76th district) disagrees with the idea of vouchers since it takes money away from public schools.

Charter schools, which provide a private education with public funding, also offer an alternative to the public school system

NEW TEACHERS

Acalanes Dons Its Newest Teachers

Cliff Shaw

By Reed Miller

Staff Writer

Many high school students feel that foreign languages they take in high school are as useful as one way walky-talkies. Cliff Shaw, new Spanish teacher at Acalanes, was another one of those kids.

Shaw, a new Spanish teacher here at Acalanes, said, "It is a little ironic. I took [Spanish] for a couple of years in high school, and I must say I wasn't too successful."

Before continuing his studies at San Francisco State, Shaw went on a vacation to Mexico City, which sparked his interest in mastering the language. He says his Mexican heritage sparked his interest to learn more. "It was a part of me that I needed to explore more," Shaw says.

Prior to his trip to Mexico, Shaw says he knew only basic Spanish and that afterwards he was no better, but the trip had "planted the seed." After graduating from college, Shaw returned to Mexico for two years and taught English as a secondary language at a private school in Mexico City on a part time basis for one year. He found it to be quite similar to teaching Spanish as a secondary language.

When Shaw returned to California, he worked for a translating and interpreting agency in San Francisco, where he worked mostly on translating information for the discovery period of a court case.

He became a full time teacher when his friend who works at Riordon High School in San Francisco said they needed more Spanish teachers. "It was almost by accident that I became a teacher," he says. "I took a definite liking to it and I'm still doing it!"

Besides teaching Spanish 1 and 2 this year at Acalanes, Shaw is teaching Spanish to his two children, Cliff, 3, and Cecilia, 5. "We speak Spanish at home. That way they will be raised with both languages."

Cecilia is also studying Mandarin at the Chinese-American International School in San Francisco. "Hopefully, it will help them in their future, whatever career they decide to choose. It will cre-



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

ate more options for them." Shaw thinks that foreign languages should be introduced to students early on.

Shaw believes that because Acalanes is a sheltered environment, students should gain responsibility before moving on in life. Students should also "understand the im-

portance of family structure."

In his spare time, Shaw plays the guitar. His favorite types of music to play are classical, rock, jazz, and also Cuban. Shaw plays in a band called the Alvin Taj because they play all vintage Cuban rumba music from the 1930's.

Susan Lane

By Marimikel Charrier

Staff Writer

Graphic Design teacher Susan Lane has come a long way from her childhood in Czechoslovakia. When she first moved to the United States as a preteen, she spoke little English.

After experiencing life in a democratic country, the United States Central Intelligence Agency wanted Lane to help them fight

communism. Lane worked for the CIA for several years, but cannot discuss the nature of her work because she was sworn to secrecy when she left the agency.

After giving up her stealthy CIA life, Lane became a mother. Her two

children are now in high school. Lane has held a variety of jobs as a mother, including working as birds trainer Marine World.

Lane majored in political science, and decided to pursue a career in teaching when her children were in first grade.

For her first teaching job, Lane volunteered to teach computers at her children's school. After volunteering, she decided to pursue a teaching career.

Sophomore Olivia Johnson is taking Graphic Design from Lane. Of the class, Johnson said "I enjoy being able to construct my own website." Johnson enjoys the class because Lane "encourages us to use our potential to the fullest."



SWEATSHOPS

No Sweat Off AHS Students' Backs

By Nathalie de Leon
and Lexi Matsui

Staff Writers

Despite protests in the East Coast about college clothing being made in sweatshops, Acalanes apparel is guilt-free, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a division of the US Department of Labor.

Most Acalanes sweatshirts and T-shirts are printed in a local store, ironically called The Sweatshop, according to Dons store owner Bev Minson.

Although Sweatshop co-owner Christy Grydyk refused to disclose the names of the manufacturers of clothes they sell to Acalanes, *Blueprint* found that the companies that make most Acalanes clothes—Hanes, Champion, and Regatta Sportsware—use their own manufacturers in the US.

Hanes and Champion are both owned by Sara Lee Corp., whose last labor law violation charge was in Aug. 1989, when it was cited for "cumulative trauma disorders in meat packaging," according to OSHA's public records.

These records reflect all operations within the country. Acalanes clothing is made in the USA.

Minson was happy that the clothes are not made in sweatshops.

"We are very pleased that we are not contributing to the hardships of young workers," said Minson.

She said that had the clothes been made in sweatshops, she would have contacted the suppliers and manufacturers to investigate.

"I wouldn't want to buy from anyone who was (using sweatshops), certainly," said Minson.

If the clothes has been found to be made in sweatshops, sophomore Suzanne Del Mazo said, "I would boycott because I don't

think it's right to exploit third world families."

Most students agreed and said they would stop buying Acalanes clothing if it was made in sweatshops.

The National Labour Committee (NLC),

Wisconsin, meanwhile, are protesting against the Collegiate Licensing Company, the mediating body between over 160 universities and manufacturing companies.

Current federal law states that manufacturers are not obligated to release information about locations of factories upon request of the public.

Similarly, private businesses are not obligated to release the names of the manufacturers they use, making it very difficult to locate a factory's whereabouts.

A number of coalitions, including United Students Against Sweatshops and the Georgetown Solidarity Committee, have raised complaints to try and change these laws. They have won disclosure at Duke, Georgetown, U. Wisconsin, and Princeton. However, the law still applies to general corporations.

Roger Zelinsky, chief information officer for Sara Lee Branded Apparel, said, "We don't have anything we wouldn't disclose, unless for competitive reasons."

The students also hope to set up a code of conduct for all manufacturers.

Sara Lee's current code of conduct call for the compliance with all laws in host countries, especially those pertaining to working hours and minimum wage.

However, the NLC and other organizations want corporations to exceed minimum wage. The NLC's proposal to reform the code of conduct would include that "the living wage must meet basic food, housing, medical, clothing, educational, and other essential needs and to reinvest in their communities."

Zelinsky said the Sara Lee code of conduct calls for legal compliance only at a bare minimum. We usually exceed that minimum."



an anti-sweatshop group heading some of the protests on the East Coast, had no records of Hanes violations. They did, however, have a small file on Champions operations in El Salvador, according to Sam Bain, a spokesman for the NLC.

"We had loose information (on Champion). We didn't make a case out of it," said Bain. "We didn't do all the research... and the case didn't come together."

The third manufacturer of Acalanes clothing, Regatta Sportsware, Inc., had no record of violations with either OSHA or the NLC.

Students of Georgetown University, Duke University, and The University of

USED CARS

Used Cars Present New Problems

By Blake Koelmel

Staff Writer

"Tight," you whisper as you stare in awe at the seemingly flawless yellow MG.

"Wow, the guy only wants 1.5K for it too!" Ten minutes later you are one yellow MG richer and 1.5K poorer, but cruisin' down Bear Creek Road with a fat smile on your face.

BAM! A piston rockets through the shiny yellow hood and you hear the beautiful sounds of metal on pavement as your oil pan begins to get groovy with the road.

As improbably as this scenario may appear, this sort of thing happens to more used car buyers than not.

They think they are getting a great deal and then ten minutes later, after they buy the car, the thing breaks down and suddenly they find that there was a lot more wrong with the car than they thought.

There are a few things one can do, however, to increase the chances of finding a quality used car for a good price.

"Get to know the car you want to buy," Doug Arau from Grand Auto Supply said.

Talk to people. Read the classifieds. Look at many different cars of that make and test-drive them, if you can. Read consumer reports and recall lists and talk to people who own the car you want. Do not immediately run down to get the "Diablo Dealer" and feel that what is in that issue is the only selection cars you have.

There is a world of selection out there and all you have to do is take some time to find the rose in the bed of thorns, so to speak.

Even though you may not find the car you want for the price you want online, the Internet is an excellent place to start your research.

For example, if you were to go to www.autoweb.com and type in Corvette for

model, Chevy for make, your zip code, and then press enter it would show a list of Vettes within a 30 to 200 mile radius of your house, how much they cost, and even what features they have, i.e. color.

With this information, from both dealers and private parties, you can get a general idea how much your "dream car" will cost. Then you can compare it to the price quoted in the Bluebook, which can also be accessed on their website at www.kbb.com.

Although www.autoweb.com is particularly user-friendly, there are some other good sites to do research on. www.kbb.com is a website where you can find the price of a car according to the

along with that the price tends to be significantly higher.

But if you have no experience working on cars and you can afford the higher price, going to a dealer may be the best way to go.

If you know how to work on cars, however, and know what to look for, it is likely that you will get more car for your buck through a private party. But as Paul Naugle, from Pep Boys, reminds us, "The lowest price isn't always the best price."

In terms of specific makes and models that have been reputedly reliable, Damon, a two-year Kragen employee, has some favorites. Damon recommends the early 90's Nissan 300ZX's for a reliable sporty car and

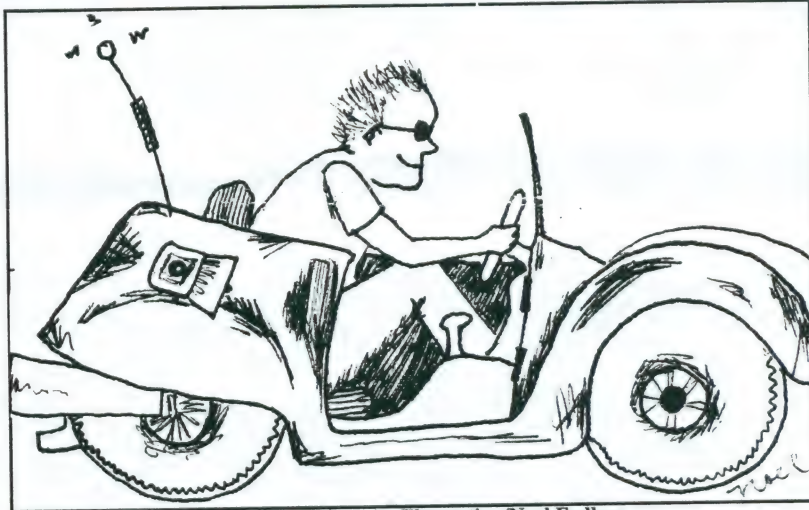
a Toyota pickup for a reliable 4x4 which would both fit under the \$10,000 range.

So, let's say you find a car and decide to buy it. There are a few things you need to find out first. Take it to an independent mechanic and have the mechanic determine if it's mechanically sound. This will help you determine whether or not you're getting ripped off.

Also, always ask if it has ever been in a wreck. If so, the title might be a salvaged title which voids collision insurance coverage. The best

way to check if the car has been wrecked is to check all of the factory numbers. Usually these numbers are in the door jams, under the hood on in the engine compartment, and up on the dash near the windshield. If all of these numbers correspond with each other, you will know that a door or a fender hasn't been replaced due to an accident.

So great! You just bought the beige Taurus with peeled off side molding of your dreams, and now it's time to maintain it. As "Get A Ford" Cusick points out, knowing how a car works and perform at least simple task, such as changing the oil, can save you a lot of money. "Lots of times, particularly when buying used cars, things are not always running as well as they should be."



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadhen

Bluebook and www.cartalk.com is an excellent source for finding out about the typical technical defects in a car as well as a good place to talk to skilled mechanics.

"What if I don't know what kind of car to get?" Well, Avelino Olegario from Toyota Walnut Creek recommends a Toyota (not surprisingly), which in reality is not a bad choice.

If you ask Automotive Technology teacher Grant Cusick what kind of car to get, however, he will inevitably say, "get a Ford." Basically, it's up to you and the amount of money you want to spend on a car.

Often times buying from a dealer offers you a warranty and the knowledge of exactly what's wrong with the cars, but

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Chuck Chats for
the last time.
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SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Time to Teach Responsible Drinking

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer

Underage drinking cannot be stopped by school officials or any type of older authority mandating prohibition. This was clearly evident earlier this year with a meeting designed to discuss laws and punishments for substance abuse amongst teenagers.

This seemed like a great idea since it was aimed mainly at the students, but only 13 of the 200 participants were teenagers. With all due respect to the organizers of these assemblies, this method does not work. As a student I know that no one will listen.

The only way to help youth is to advocate responsible drinking through a peer or friend. Most teenagers won't listen to a stranger they have never met, especially if it is mandatory that they attend. Someone they know and trust might have a chance at communication, but at the high school level it might even be too late.

The only real way to get through is at a younger age when a child is more likely to listen. At this point, a teenager will not take the advice into consideration unless they have seen it happen or have experienced it first hand through trial and error. An authority figure could even have a negative effect, by forcing an anti-drug message down the throats of defiant teenagers.

I realize that as a parent there is an instinct to protect your children, but some adults faced the exact same problems in high school. While this does not exonerate this behavior, it does bring up a valid point.

In our culture it is imminent that teenagers are going to experiment with many things, some with drugs and alcohol. Just

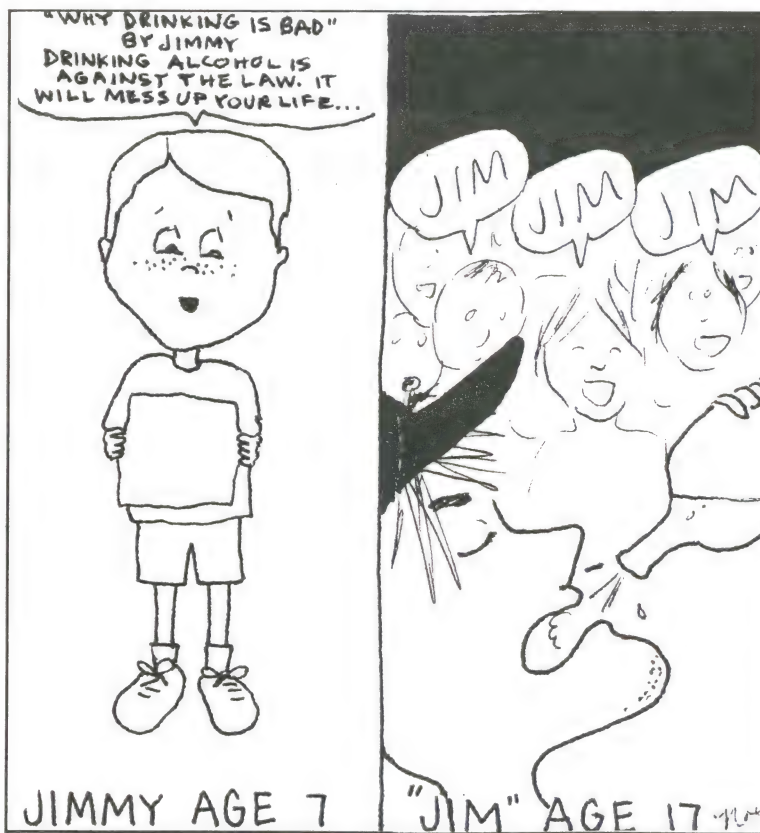
will not arouse as much interest as a banned activity.

Linda Williams, a resident of Lafayette who once lived in France said, "Alcohol there is integrated into the social fabric of daily life for everyone, including adolescents. The kids have learned to handle it with the family, instead of going out with their friends and getting drunk. I did notice less underage drinking, and I think it's a better way to live."

This system would dispose of the rebellious status of alcohol, and promote more responsible drinking. Of course, there will always be a group of people that want to get smashed every weekend, but this may diminish the risks of alcohol away from home.

For some high school drinkers it might not even be as large of a problem as most parents fear. I know plenty of students who drink to unwind and relax on the weekend, but during the week work hard to maintain good grades. I am not condoning underage drinking, but there are many people at Acalanes that are mature enough to handle drinking responsibly.

The bottom line is that there will always be teenagers trying new things, legal and illegal. It's great to know parents are trying to help, but until they stop drinking themselves, responsible consumption is the best our community can do.



because Acalanes is in the sheltered community of Lafayette does not mean it is immune to these problems.

Responsible drinking is successfully implemented in other countries that integrate alcohol into family life. Something that is legal and widely accepted

PRO/CON

Students Question NATO Intervention

Should NATO be intervening militarily in the Kosovo region?

By Sam Cunningham

Staff Writer

NATO intervention in Kosovo province is a moral imperative, as well as an immediate priority of the free world. We must stop the atrocities in Kosovo committed by the Serbs who are waging a horrible campaign of genocide against an oppressed people who have already agreed to peace.

If there is one thing we have learned from the this century, it is that inaction in the face of brutality only invites more brutality. Idleness on the part of the West during Hitler's time allowed him to start history's most destructive war.

We must not make the same mistake with Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic. His atrocities in Kosovo must be met with decisive action. Already, nearly a million people have been uprooted and forced out of the country at gunpoint, their homes and farms burned and identification papers destroyed. Thousands more are dead, executed by Yugoslavian police and the army. The stories of thousands of refugees fleeing the country all build upon the same, ugly theme: male citizens executed and buried in mass graves, women beaten and raped and children torn away from their parents.

Their words are proof enough that the inhumane brutality of Milosevic must be halted. And NATO air strikes are simply not enough. Let us not forget Milosevic's war of aggression against the sovereign states of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia several years ago, in which Milosevic was responsible for the deaths of 250,000 innocent people. During these conflicts he showed utter contempt for both European Community and United Nations brokered peace agreements and walked all over them, pursuing regional domination and continuing ethnic cleansing.

It is because of this that air strikes will simply not be enough. Kosovo is almost completely under the control of Milosevic. The air campaign will not have enough effect on his forces to stop their ability to expel the Kosovar population. NATO ground troops will also be necessary to insure that the unadulterated butchery of Milosevic does not continue. If this means an invasion of Yugoslavian territory than so be it. A full fledged campaign may be necessary to topple Milosevic (and try him for crimes against humanity) and bring stability to the region.

Those who cry "Vietnam" when ground troops are mentioned, consider this: why must the troops be American? Why British? Why German? Why French? A better idea would be to organize the +80,000 man invasion force entirely out of Turkish troops acting under NATO command. Their role in Kosovo's history and their ambitions to destroy the Serbs would make them the perfect soldiers for this conflict.

Whether we, the Western allies, can win a respectable and enforceable peace in Kosovo is not the question. It is whether we have the moral strength to do it.

By Jeff Price

Staff Writer

Since the fall of the Soviet empire, the United States has undertaken a policy to be the big brother of the world. In the guise of focusing on abuses of human rights worldwide, US foreign policy has become a haphazard mishmash of touchy-feely rhetoric and under-planned peacekeeping missions that send too many US soldiers home in body bags. The current crisis in Kosovo is no exception.

NATO, under US influence, entered into Kosovo as a mission to stop the "human rights abuses" that have become so widespread in today's splintered world. After NATO planners found, probably much to their great dismay, that Serb leaders wouldn't fold after the first cruise missiles hit Belgrade, the only plan left in their minds was to send NATO ground forces to Kosovo. However, ground troops are not the solution to problems faced by ethnic Kosovars.

While the US and NATO have maintained their rhetoric of protecting human rights, the current military actions in Kosovo have only sped the process of ethnic cleansing up. Even after NATO bombings, reconnaissance missions have shown 43 new mass graves, holding up to 3000 dead Kosovar Albanians, and those figures show no signs of decreasing. If NATO were to enter into the region with ground troops, it would be forced to fight a guerilla battle in unfavorable terrain with a hostile populace that is ethnically homogenous- a situation that sounds much like Vietnam.

NATO has entered into a mission that it knows little about, and can exert only limited control over. The ethnic hatreds that have spawned the current crisis are hundreds of years old- much older than the memories of NATO generals, apparently. As idealistic as the idea of stopping an ancient ethnic tension by military force are, the best that NATO could hope for, even with continued military presence, is to subvert hostilities until foreign troops leave. Much like the Yugoslav peoples under the Communist regime of Tito, the class hatreds would do nothing but simmer underground. No lasting peace could be accomplished.

Clearly, NATO is misguided. It has no exit strategy and no way to stop a populace driven not by leaders but by personal hatred to act against their fellow man. There are no easy solutions in Kosovo. However, there are easy ways to fail. One of those ways is ground troops.

BLUEPRINT EDITORIAL

Our Culture: A Prescription for Tragedy

Two young men in black trench coats approached Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20 and attacked with firearms and pipebombs. By the end of the day, the two culprits as well as twelve of their fellow students and one teacher were dead.

It is a sickening tragedy, which, as high school students, we all feel personally because our peers are killing in cold blood.

What could drive students to do such an awful thing to their own? Do these students not understand the finality or the seriousness of death? And why is serious school violence by teens, a new and deadly rising trend?

The answer lies in the deterioration of our culture over generations. Forty, or even ten, years ago, events such as these did not occur. The eight school yard shootings in the past 40 months have all been with weapons increasingly available over the decades. Since the year 1959 and to the present day, a momentous and menacing shift in American culture and society has occurred.

The difference between the two Americas, that of today and that of forty years ago, is profound and disturbing. The pre-Boomer generation in America at the close of the '50s presented a very morally structured society, typical of people who had suffered greatly during the Depression and World War II. By contrast, their children, the Baby Boomers who by now have reached an age where they are the dominant force in society, present much the opposite.

Today's America is less moral than that of our grandparents. While we have not reached the point where our society has become immoral, the basic organization of American society in 1999 is hollow and shallow. Baby Boomers, often smug, wealthy rebels, have created an all too materialistic, self-indulgent, self-centered society. Characterized by no-fault divorce, abortion on demand, deficit spending, a

perpetrator-as-victim philosophy, two working parent families, tolerance of drug use, promiscuous sexual behavior, and the pursuit of wealth simply for its own sake, America is a very different place than in 1959.

Additionally, there is no structure, no

a difference.

In such a vacuum of parental care, a young, isolated person with low self-esteem and a need to fill his inner void, will do something insane, such as killing their classmates in cold blood. The fact that this is occurring in 1999 rather than in 1959 is

because so many parents today are Baby Boomers, and tragically, many of them look out for themselves first. At the risk of generalizing, the poor parenting job many 40-somethings are doing, combined with their own inherent resistance to authority is producing fertile ground for the blackness underlying a Jonesboro and Littleton.

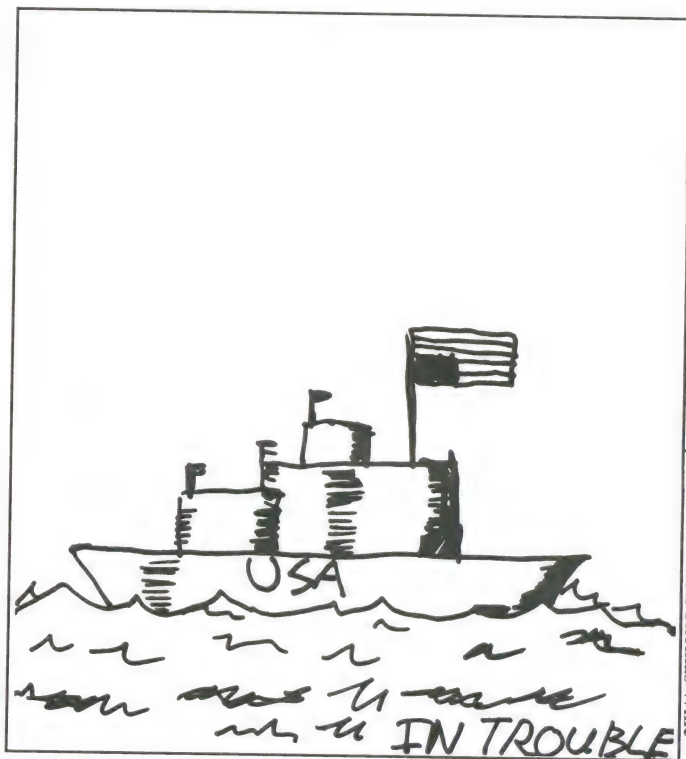
There is more to these tragedies than just the collapse of structure in America. It is also indirectly caused by our recklessly out of control mass media.

Not only do the media glamorize promiscuous sex, drugs and crime, they also flood us with an incessant parade of fictional and nonfictional violence packaged as "cool" or "fun". Incidents such as Littleton shouldn't come as a surprise

after watching a few hours of prime time, surfing the Net for a few minutes, watching *Natural Born Killers* or listening to Marilyn Manson or a rap radio station.

We, as a nation and as a culture, need to examine what is going in the lives of our children more carefully. We must wage a war on youth violence, not only in schools, but everywhere. Indulgent Boomers in the entertainment industry, who profiteer off of a degenerate popular culture, must use restraint when presenting their material by putting values and good taste before profit. And we, the consumers, must turn away from media that glorifies violence.

Most importantly, parents must focus more on their children's lives, so we can prevent youths from sinking into the abyss which caused Jonesboro and Littleton.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

real behavioral leadership, in American society today. The incredible cynicism in the mentality of the country's ruling generation simply does not allow for a guiding moral influence to exist, much less exert a guiding influence over the nation's youth. Adulterous political leaders, such as President Clinton, Ted Kennedy, Bob Livingston and Henry Hyde can offer no support in this area.

Young people need to belong to something bigger than themselves, something that they can feel a part of. While this outside guiding force may be church, school, sports or other peer-related activities, the most important place for a young person to learn about structure is from parents. Unfortunately, today's parents can often be uncaring or too self-absorbed in their careers, clubs, cliques, etc., to really make

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

What a difference a weekend can make! When I met with students on Friday and while the shock and grief of the killings in Colorado were still so fresh on the minds of those at counseling sessions, there was a genuine acknowledgment that teasing and taunting fellow students must stop. It was as if the incident in Colorado was an extreme example of what can happen when a couple of students reached the breaking point of feeling unaccepted by their peers; a wake up call, if you will. However, and I write this

with great frustration, it seems that between Friday and Monday, the climate may have returned to its status quo; that teasing and taunting is just "an inevitable part of the high school experience." I don't believe that it has to be, and I am hoping that those students on Friday who agreed that it's time to stop the teasing will remain true to their word. Hopefully they can bring their influence to bear upon those who find it to be an amusing past time. If taunting and teasing can cause one to feel hopeless, can someone

please explain to me why on earth do we do it? During the Monday group session regarding the shootings at Columbine High School, a lively discussion centered on the fact that groups and cliques have always and will continue to exist as part of the high school experience. I raised the question, "But why do we need to place judgements on these individuals or groups?" While a few students seemed determined to maintain their fight to judge one group as better than another, I never received a logical answer.

—Michelle Lee, School Counselor

CHAT WITH CHUCK

Dude, what happened to Senior Cut Day?

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Foouuurrr Twweeeennnttty dude!

What a shock it was when the Senior Cut Day on April 20 failed like an Acalanes student taking a breathalyzer test. Senior students showed up to school as though the day's curriculum was sex education.

The cut day was called because April 20 (4/20) is a day of international celebration of smoking marijuana.

I would have thought that the school's premier pot smokers would be best equipped for the kind of organizing it takes for every senior to cut on the same day. But I guess somewhere along the way the networking broke down.

It probably went down like this:

"Dude, Billy. Tell everyone that its Senior Cut day on 420."

"Ok Dude."

"Wait, who do I tell?"

"Everybody!"

"Oh, oh yeah."

"Wait, what do I tell them?"

"Ummm. Man I forgot. Let's just go smoke some pot."

"Yahhh! Good idea, Dude."

And so, another great idea melted colorlessly down the drain. But our childish and amiably stoned comrades did no worse than our leadership class did with the talent show.

Organizers left the overhead lights on in the gym that cast a glare rendering the performers invisible to much of the audience. They said it was necessary for "safety" and selling concessions. Meanwhile, young children swung like monkeys from the scaffolding in the back of the gym. If that's not a liability suit waiting to happen, then I don't know what is.

Fortunately, not many students were concerned. As is often the case, most students were there to socialize rather than watch the performances.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

One of my teachers complained that the music was so loud he lost his hearing the next day. I would know, I couldn't hear anything over the gossiping of some glittery girl who looked like she'd been hit in the nose with a frying pan.

And even when I could hear, I couldn't see anything because some kid kept blocking my view with his oversized gap sweatshop sweatshirt that made him look like a walking billboard.

Nevertheless, the event was a good time for all. Don't let my playful mocking get you down. No matter how much they annoyed me, Acalanes' glittery girls, consumeristic students, complacent idiots, stoners, drunks, meat-heads, pinko activists, and all the like have made

my stay a much more pleasant one.

This is my last column. So my last advice to you is to keep questioning everything: from the legitimacy of the school's broken breathalyzers to the propaganda fed to you in history class, and from the bogus explanation for why you can't sit on the Junior Deck to the exact contents of a Zombie. I hope you find the answers. But if you don't you've got to keep questioning nonetheless.

Certainly, we should leave the childishness of Senior Cut Day, petty mockery (like my own), and superficiality here at Acalanes. But we should never lose the childlike curiosity that drives us to question

Anyway, it's been a pleasure writing for you. Enjoy three more years of hell freshmen.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE



Thomas Wille
reviews *The Matrix*
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RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

Tom Morello Rages Against the Machine

The following is an excerpt from a question and answer session with Rage Against the Machine guitarist, Tom Morello. A Blueprint reporter attended the session which was open to the public at Rage's website on April 14. A full transcript is available at www.ratm.com where Morello says more Q and A sessions will be conducted in the future.

Tom Morello: There is no release date yet for the new Rage album, nor has there ever been an official release date. Timmy, Brad, and I finished our instrumental parts on Oct. 1. Zack is still working on the lyrics and is about 1/3 of the way done. We do not know how long it will take to complete. The tracks so far sound awesome and as soon as it's done, the band will issue an official release date. We are as eager as all of you are for the new Rage record to be out and we want to make sure that it not only lives up to the standards of our previous releases but that it is by far and away the best Rage record to date.

Ryan Clausen: what kind of guitar teaching have you had previous to joining RATM?

TM: I'm a self-taught guitar player. I took a couple of lessons when I was 13 and was very turned off by the rigidity of the musical doctrine. Four years later when I purchased the Sex Pistols album *Never Mind the Bollocks*, I picked up the guitar and was in a band that same week. I didn't know how to play a single note or chord. It was the do-it-yourself, amateur spirit of the punk bands like the Sex Pistols and the Clash that made me decide that I could do it to. Perhaps with an inexpensive guitar, limited amount of musical knowledge, I could still make powerful music.

Holly: Do you call yourself a feminist and if so, why did you decide to tour with Wu-Tang when much of their music degrades women?

TM: We never had an ideological litmus test that we've used as a yardstick to judge the bands that we tour with. If we were only going to tour with bands that shared our exact philosophical perspective, we would certainly

touring by ourselves. I very much disagree with the misogyny found in a lot of rap and rock and country for that matter. But the Wu Tang Clan are one of the most formidable and groundbreaking hip-hop acts of all time, and that is why we chose to tour with them.

Jon in Amherst: Tom, How do you feel about being recognized as the most innovative guitar player of the nineties?

TM: Part of the reason people mistake me for being an influential guitar player is that there really aren't too many guitar players left in

whining from elitist indie rock circles. When we got the thumbs up from sub-commandante Marcos from the jungles of Chiapas because he approved of our MTV video for the song *People of the Sun*, we decided to go ahead with it and braced ourselves for whatever whining was to come. We sleep well at night knowing that we have forced into 50,000,000+ households the case of Leonard Peltier and the struggles of the Zapatistas.

Blueprint: Do you object to people bootlegging your work and circulating it as MP3's?

TM: I have no objection to people listening to RATM music for free. I'm not that familiar with MP3, but friends have run off some great bootleg albums for me which I enjoy. When a shadow company takes the reigns though, and is profiting at the expense of the band and fans, that's when I have a problem with it.

John from BC: What are your views towards the incredible problems of homophobia?

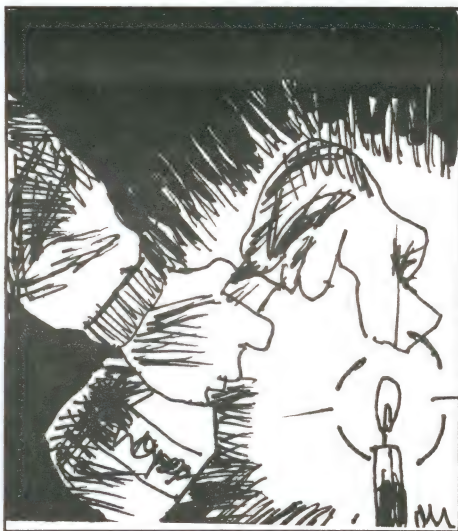
TM: I grew up in a small Illinois town where homophobia was rampant. At the time, I shared some of those ignorant views. I think it's critical to accept and show respect for all people, regardless of their color, sexual orientation, etcetera. Idiotic homophobes and gay bashers are no better than overt racists.

Anonymous: Have drugs influenced your career in any way?

TM: Absolutely not. Once I had a few too many Kahlua's before a show, my playing was crappy. Later upon reflection I figured out why, and have shied away from any sort of drinking anywhere around rehearsals or shows.

Anonymous: Do you think such teenagers can change anything without a global revolution?

TM: Teenagers change their world every day. It's teenagers who are the Zapatistas in the jungles of Chiapas. It's teenagers who helped bring an end to the Vietnam War, both on the streets of Chicago and in the jungles of the Me Kong Delta. Whenever someone of any age stands up for their rights, that act of courage in a small way changes the world.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

the post-Nirvana era that are willing to even play no-holds-barred guitar solos. Let alone experiment with different sounds and textures in a 90's that's been dominated by a stripped down pop rock formula.

Al Dallas: How do you feel about "selling yourself out" by putting music videos on MTV and such, a breeding ground for all the money makers out there today?

TM: Again, this is a question that is only asked by upper-middle-class white kids. When we got the thumbs-up from Leonard Peltier from his jail cell at Leavenworth penitentiary on our video for the song *Freedom*, we decided to go ahead with it despite some nagging and

TALENT SHOW

Star Search Comes to AHS Talent Show

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Hidden among the thousand faces of the Acalanes Student body lie talented students who shared talent that made up for technical difficulties on the night of the talent show, Thursday, March 24.

The show did not run very smoothly. Its coordinators did not seem to expect the long setup times needed between acts, which left hosts James Applebury and Josh Garret trying to keep things moving.

Applebury and Garret tried to keep things moving smoothly with jokes and everything from staring contests and year 2000 predictions.

Things got rocking with a group of "Metal Maniacs" that hyped the crowd by performing "Perry Mason" with Senior Matt Rowan on drums, Senior Chris-to Michaelides on base, Sophomore Mike Rowan on guitar, and Senior Sean Henson on vocals during the first act.

Seniors Laura Kikuchi and Stephanie Jung shook the audience up while they moved their hips to the beat of a rapid drum. The difficult Tahitian dance won the girls second place in the talent show.

The audiences' hearts were then easily soothed by the enchanting sounds of Sophomore Marimikel Charrier on the harp. The harpist's talented fingers won her first place on Thursday night. She was truly the talent of the talent show. "I thought all of the acts went really well, it would be hard to choose a favorite," said Charrier, who looks forward to playing at weddings in the next year.

Then, the audience was wooed by the deep grievances of Seniors Dave Miskie and Morgan Miles, who spilled their guts about profound issues like algebra and last lines of first (and last) dates. Their expressions won them third place in the show.

The Acalanes Men's Octet closed the show appropriately with an awe-inspiring rendition of "For The Longest Time," featuring the melodic voice of Henson.

Eat your heart out, Ed McMan.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

The organizers of the Senior Fashion Show are introducing themselves to the crowd. They all sported black dresses and colorful feather boas.

FASHION SHOW

By Lindsay Wood
Staff Writer

As the fashion show began, the senior girls who put hours into the show walked out on the catwalk in black dresses and showed that their practicing paid off.

This year the fashion, with the theme of movies, was all about color. In scenes like *Clueless*, *Can't Hardly Wait*, and *Rambo*, anything from camouflage to tight bright colored tube tops could be seen. In *James Bond* the guys, classically dressed in suits, showed that they had style, as they walked down the catwalk with girls dressed in office wear on their arms.

From the seats in the audience, the show appeared to run smoothly with the seniors confidently strutting their stuff and the light crew working on cue. Behind the scenes was much different. With some seniors in scenes back to back, like *Varsity Blues* and *Can't Hardly Wait*, it gave the students only three minutes to change outfits. As jun-

ior Shawna Trudrung, who helped the seniors with the fashion show said, "It was fun, but lots of work. It was organized at first, but as the show went on the chaos increased."

Although there were limitations and noise problems from rowdy seniors the show came together and the school the seniors at their best.

The fashion show would have been a bust if it weren't for all the stores that donated cloths. With a variety of different cloths the senior were able to show many different a styles of cloths. Guys in board shorts, and girls in tube tops and capri pants, could be seen on the catwalk in summer scenes, while fleece jackets, snow board pants, and boots could be seen in winter scenes. However, we will most likely not seen the tiny tops around school since it goes against the dress code.

The best part of the show was at the end. The guys were in full swing in tuxedos and the girls graced the catwalk wearing formal dresses with roses in hand. This fashion show was one to be remembered.

MOVIE REVIEWS

"Wake Up!" Shouts *The Matrix*

By Thomas Wille
Staff Writer

The Matrix

(Warner Brothers)



By their nature, Action movies are not bad. Violence is a powerful way to get a message across, it's just that for some reason giant studios exclusively bankroll idiotic bloodbaths on film. *The Matrix*, fortunately, is an exceptionally crafted, thinking man's action flick.

The film follows Keanu Reeves, a computer hacker seemingly targeted by government agents and a shadowy group of cyberterrorists who wants to know the secrets of mystic "Matrix." Of course nothing is as it seems as the film develops into an antiauthoritarian allegory. Perhaps it's about hallucinogens, the media or capitalism (the *Rage Against the Machine* song that closes the film leans towards this theory).

The Matrix also seems ground breaking in it's vast use of special effects. The effects are jaw dropping, but are never at the expense of the story. Keanu Reeves, can be one of the worst actors in Hollywood, provides his most solid work to date, and the action sequences will satisfy anyone who loves a good shoot em' up. In the tradition of *Blade Runner* I strongly recommend this movie.

The Zero Effect

(now on video cassette)



From where I see it, *The Zero Effect* is a mixture of *Sherlock Holmes*, *Chinatown*, and the *Pink Panther*. It's great detective work, stunning mystery, and



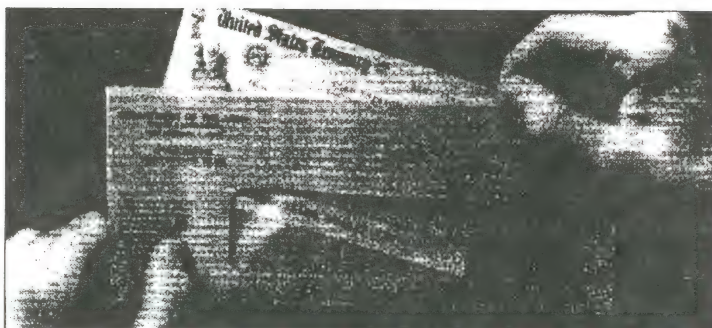
Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

very off beat humor.

It stars Bill Pullman as the world's best, and most eccentric private eye. Ben Stiller plays his personal aid of sorts, who is driven mad by his bosses' weird demands. The private eye is Darryl Zero, who lives off a strict diet of canned tuna, Tab, and pretzels. In his spare time he writes songs with "trite" metaphors. However he has the uncanny ability to observe human behavior and deduce their motivations. He does this by "remaining objective," and stating the very obvious about his methods.

Zero is hired by a wealthy Portland Businessman to find the missing keys to the man's safety deposit box. Zero assumes numerous identities and deduces amazing things out of plain observation. Meanwhile his aid is trying to quit and get married. Zero eventually finds his objectivity under attack when a woman actually shows a romantic interest in one of his aliases.

The Zero Effect, like the *Matrix*, needs to be viewed to even begin to comprehend. If you like a film with twists and turns to rival *Chinatown*, I suggest *The Zero Effect*.



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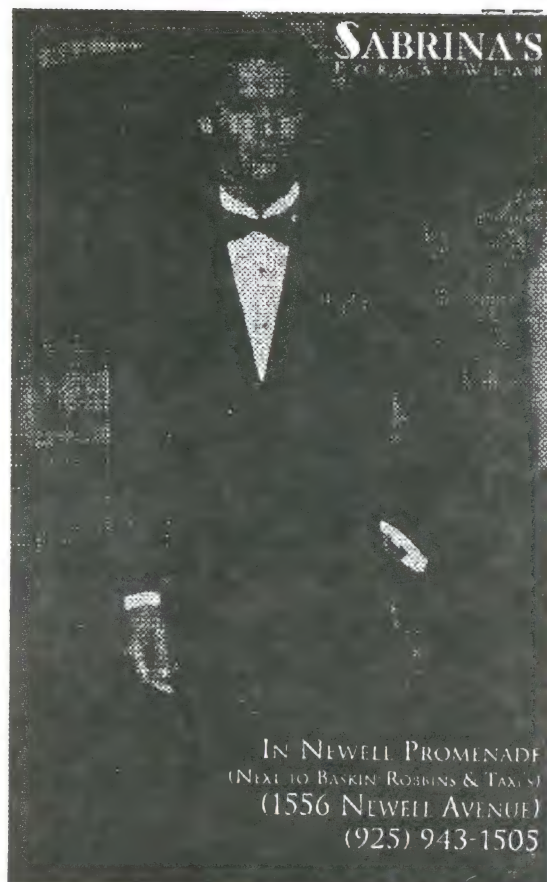
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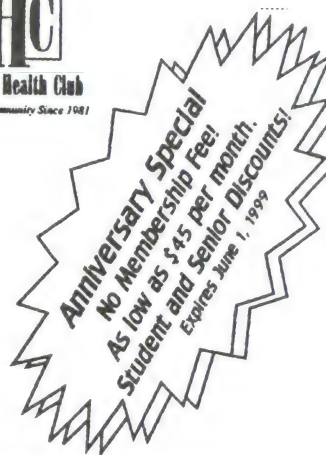
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ACALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE



*Dons battle the
Cougars in the
Water Pg. 29*

Blueprint

April 30, 1999

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SOFTBALL

Lady Dons Overcome Second Place Dublin

By Myles Rush and Vanessa Totten
Staff Writer and Co-Editor-In-Chief

The Lady Dons softball team had an impressive victory on Tuesday, April 27 against the Dublin Gaels, the second ranked team in the Tri-County-Athletic-League.

The Dons victory changed their ranking from fourth to either third or second, depending on other teams performances this week. The Dons 2-1 victory was aided by the Dons "positive attitude" according to senior Kim Carter, who scored one of the two team runs. Junior Staci Yamaguchi contributed the other run, and an impressive catch.

On defense, junior Robin Flier saved the day by throwing a runner out at home, who, if she scored, could have tied the game.

Carter said the Gaels came "out on to the field with an attitude, thinking they would win", which made the victory even sweeter.

The Dons had another impressive victory on April 20 versus Las Lomas. The Dons slaughtered the Knights 10-1.

For the first two innings both teams went scoreless, but in the third inning Acalanes erupted with four runs and Las Lomas only one. Again there was a scoring drought in the fourth and fifth innings, but in the sixth, Acalanes scored six runs to Las Lomas's zero.

"It was an exciting win, and everybody played very well," said sophomore Jamie Fassio.

On April 15, the Lady Dons lost to the Matadors 6-3. The Dons assisted the Mats with four errors in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The Dons beat Alhambra on April 13, and were errorless for the entire game.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

A Las Lomas catcher attempts to stop an Acalanes Dons runner. The Dons overwhelmed the Knights, winning 10-1.

Acalanes took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Carter hitting home Flier.

Acalanes beat Mt. Diablo 12-4 on April 1 and lost to Freedom on 2-1 on March 30.

BASEBALL

Big Hitting Propels Dons to 11-2 Mark

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The key to Acalanes' 9-5 win over Concord on April 22 was big hitting.

The Dons had three home runs in the game to help improve their record to 11-7. Senior Pat Cochrane hit a two run homer in the first and a three run homer in the second to put the the Dons up 5-0. In the third, Concord rallied back, scoring five runs to put the game at five all. From then on it was all Acalanes. The Dons scored one run in each of the final four innings, including a solo home run by John Derne in the 5th to seal the victory.

Acalanes took an early lead against Las Lomas on April 20 and

held it to win 7-2.

In the first inning, the Las Lomas pitcher walked Acalanes' first four batters, then allowed a hit by Derne that let in two more runs, and another run also.

Senior E.J. Verceles said the team just played solid defense. "We pulled away early and worked on keeping the lead."

Eric Lee pitched the entire game, allowing only two runs.

On April 17, Acalanes beat Granada 6-5 in a make up game from the preseason that had been rained out.

Miramonte defeated Acalanes 9-6 on April 15 in an explosive scoring game. Miramonte scored a couple of runs early, but Acalanes came

back to be down 3-2 in the sixth. In the bottom of that inning, Miramonte scored six runs to go up 9-2. Acalanes had one last chance to win the game. They staged a bit of a comeback by scoring four runs in the top of the seventh, but it was too little too late.

Alhambra pounded the Dons in a 7-2 loss on April 13 at home. "It was over early for us, unfortunately," said Acalanes Coach Dave Borghi. Alhambra was up 2-1 at the end of the second, and added four more runs in the third to lead 6-1 after only three innings.

Acalanes couldn't come back against Alhambra. In three of the last four innings, Acalanes got men into scoring position, but only scored once more off a single in the sixth by senior Jim Woods that brought in Verceles from second.

Alhambra Coach Lou Sazario said that his team was not celebrating the win until after the last out had been recorded. "They battled back. Until the last guy, Jessie (Ingram) was out at the end, everybody was hanging on to their seats."

Cochrane said the team needed more big plays. "That's how you win games, if you make the key plays, the big ones to keep them from scoring. There were plays when they advanced to second when they shouldn't have, those are what killed us."

Acalanes played in the Willie Stargell tournament at the College of Alameda over spring break. They lost their first round game 11-6 to El Cerrito, but won their next game 4-3 to Monte Vista. In the final round of the consolation bracket, the Dons lost to Berkeley by 4-2.

Acalanes defeated Concord 3-1 at home on March 23. Up 3-1 in the top of the seventh inning Concord had a man on second with two outs, a Concord batter smacked a shot into center field. Cochrane made a diving catch to end the game.



Senior Jim Woods fields a ball in a recent Dons baseball 9-5 victory against Concord.

VOLLEYBALL

Dons Backhand Knights And Mats

By Hiro Kagiya

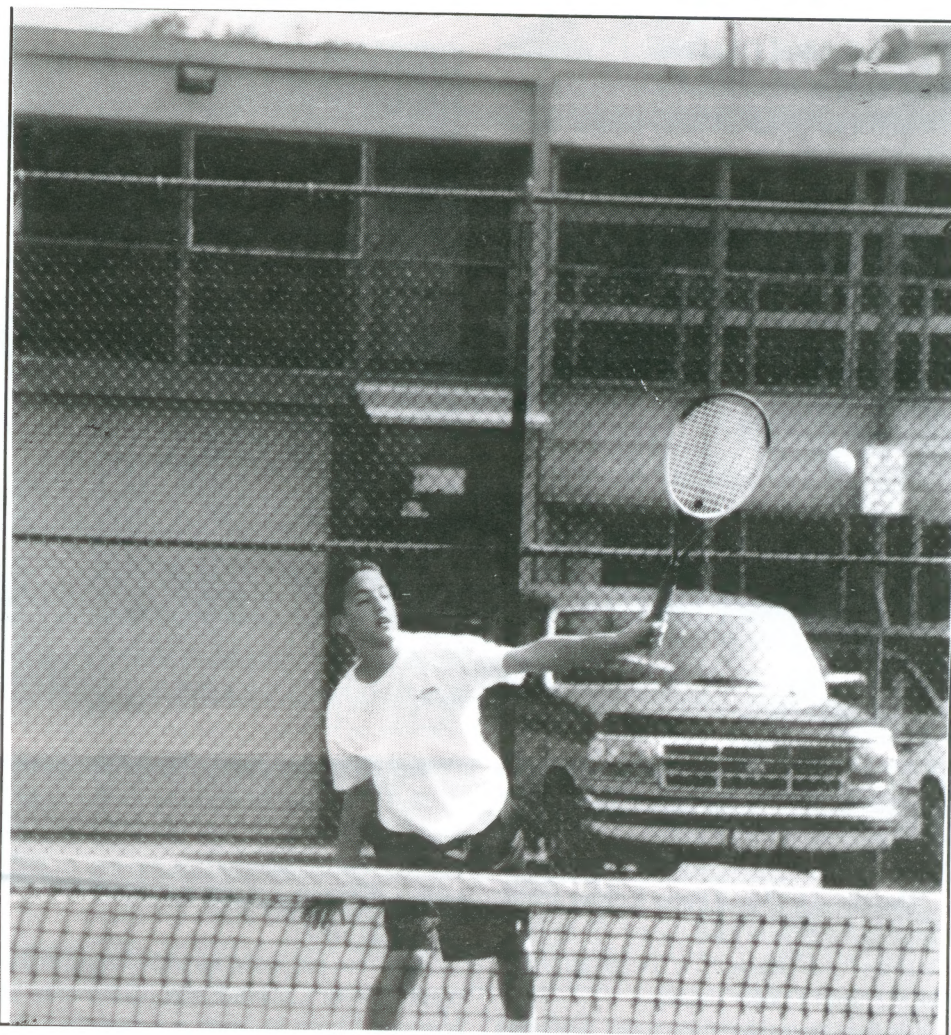
Staff Writer

The Dons stroked their way to two monumental victories against the colossal Los Lomas team and the veteran Miramonte team.

In the match against Los Lomas the Dons showed no mercy slamming the Knights into submission and forcing them to accept an 8-1 loss. In this match Matt Baca played the number one singles spot losing a tough match 6-3, 6-0 to the Knights' number one Ryan Browne. Number two Andy Byrne played a great match winning both games with great ground-strokes 6-3, 6-3 against Borzo Noroozy. Phil Talatala played number three and came out victorious against Mike Swan 6-2, 6-1. In doubles Acalanes Dons' Chris Wong and Matt Seibert used great teamwork to win a marathon -of a match against Nish Antkohli and Adam Pettler 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

In their next match the Dons faced the raging Matadors parrying all their blows and executing a huge 6-3 victory. In the number one seat the Dons' ace in the hole, Dylan Tubelle, crushed Kevin Pfeffinger 6-0, 6-2. In the number two position Matt Baca lost a close match to Matt Stinson 7-6, 6-3. In the number three seat Freshman Scott MacKenzie showed his stuff coming out on top with a 7-6, 2-6, 6-0 match score. At number four veteran player Andy Byrne showed his exceptional abilities beating Randy Jew 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. In doubles matches number one varsity team Devin Gallo and Dwight Lee played David Harmetz and Kevin Brown winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Number three doubles players Mike Pessis and Sharif Abu-Hamdeh played a great game, especially at the net, winning 6-0, 7-6.

With these victories against two experienced teams the Dons tennis team continues to a great but unappreciated part of the school. The tennis coach agreed with the statement and said that school support is vital factor to any team.



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

An Acalanes Dons tennis player shows off his skills on the court in a recent team match.

TENNIS

By Hiro Kagiya

Staff Writer

The Dons destroyed both Freedom and Dublin in a tornado of serves, spikes and blocks blowing them to a 7-2 record in league thus far. The Dons placed 5th in a tournament at Fremont High where they were put up against tough veteran teams.

In the match against Freedom the Dons bumped, set, and spiked their way to a 15-3, 15-10, 15-10 victory. After a first game slaughter, Freedom tightened up and began to execute several nice plays, but the Dons fought back with seven kills by Nick Russell and six kills by Navdeep Sekhon forcing

Freedom to knuckle under.

Then the Dons faced a menagerie of teams at the Fremont tournament and were able to attain a respectable 5th place standing in the gold division. In the preliminaries the Dons faced Prospect High and crushed them in two straight games 15-4, 15-4. In the second game the Dons played Marin Catholic High and won 15-3, 15-4. They then played the Homestead team who was seeded 4th and lost 13-15, 4-15. After the matches the Dons made the Gold Division and were placed against number one seeded team Monterey to whom they lost to in a tough 3-15, 3-15 loss.

TRACK AND FIELD

Undefeated, But Wait, Here Come s AHS

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

Acalanes tread all over Dublin's noticeably smaller team at the dual meet at Dublin on April 14.

The Acalanes boys won 99-37 and the girls, who won every event, 119-13.

The Dublin boys only won two races, the mile and two mile even without one of their best milers

who was ill. In the mile, Harper (Dublin) finished strong with a 4:56, followed by teammate

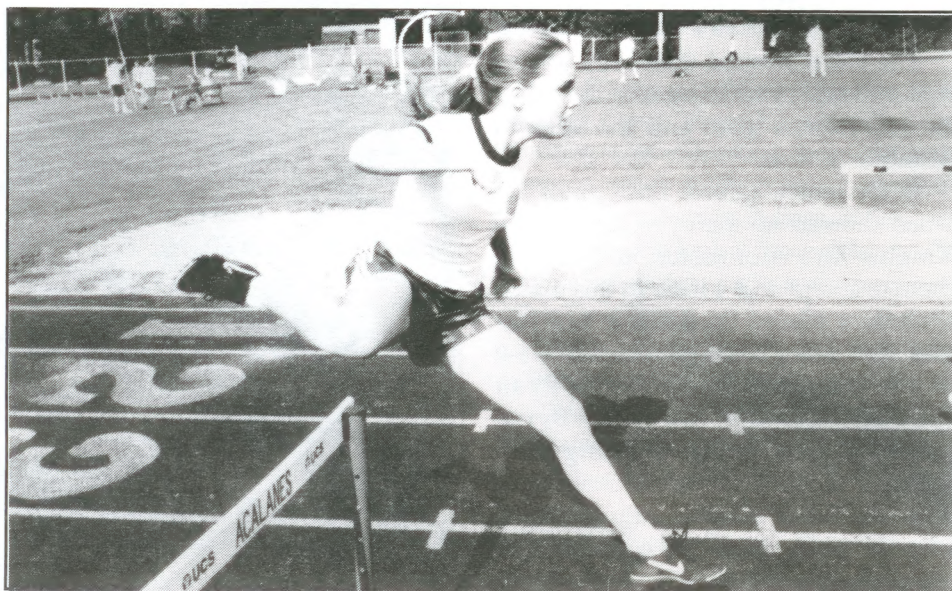
Gomez, who finished 4:59. Acalanes senior Chris Vetek provided adequate competition by finishing third with 5:05. In the two mile, Gomez took first with 11:15, Vetek second (11:21) and

Dublin's Gardner third (11:44). Dublin distance coach Glen Walder was impressed with Vetek and found it neat seeing them push each other and having a good race. On the girls side, Acalanes dominated the mile race taking first though third. Erin Riordan ran a 6:09, Mary

Thomas a 6:13 and Petra Kohler a 6:13. These same athlete took the two mile race. Thomas finished with a 14:25, Riordan (14:31) then Kohler (14:40).

On the other side of the track, Acalanes boys and girls cleaned up in sprinting. Acalanes' Ali Al-Mufti took first in the 100 meter with 11.7. Dublin filed in next, Gonzalez with a 12.3 and Taylor with a 13.0. Acalanes sophomore Marimikel Charrier took first for the girls with 13.3. Acalanes sophomore Megan Kalvass came in second with 13.6, followed by Dublin's Smith (14.1).

In the sand pits, Acalanes was king. Acalanes senior Terence Wong won the long jump (20-3), the triple jump (40-4) and the high jump (5-4). Dublin's Taylor, a distant 16-11 from Wong, took second in the long jump and Acalanes junior Bret Boudreaux was third with 16-6. In the triple jump, Boudreaux leap into second with 36-3. Dublin's Gonzalez took third with 35-6. Dublin's Gladden (5-2) was a mere two inches behind Wong in the high jump and Boudreaux two behind him.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

An Acalanes track team member exhibits her athletic prowess during a recent practice by running the hurdles.

The girls swept both relays with a time of 53-9 in the 4x100 and 4:47 in the 4x400. Dublin timed in at 54.4 (4x100) and 5:12 (4x400). The Acalanes boys did just as well with a 45.8 in the 4x100, far ahead of Dublin's team (49.2).

Acalanes prepared for a challenge in the meet against Concord and Miramonte at home on March 31. Their mindset obviously paid off with a 101-26 score on the boys side and 82-46 for the girls against Miramonte. Though the Concord coach, Jennifer Sharpless, said (Concord) put forth their best effort, they did not fair much better scoring 89-42 on the boys side and 114-3 for the girls.

For the pole vault, Acalanes did not put out many athletes. Miramonte took first and third with 11' by Justin West and 10' by Pat Zimmerman. Acalanes landed second with 10'6" by Matt Meyer. In the girls division, only one vaulter competed. Miramonte's Stephanie Lau got a 6'6".

The 200 meter dash was a neck to neck race between Acalanes sophomore Jenny Barbera (28.5), who came a split second behind Miramonte's Claire Deddy (28.4). Acalanes sophomore Megan Kalvass secured third with 29.41. Acalanes boys Grant Woods and Ali Al-Mufti battled for first and second with 23.22 and 23.7, respectively.

Acalanes senior Amy Judy barely finished ahead of Miramonte's Erin Harper (2:32.64) with 2:32.56 in the 800 meters. Acalanes junior Shelley Matsutani took second with 2:41.14.

Acalanes boys senior Justin Fossum (2:06.25), V. Sekhon (2:07.22), A. Baca (2:14.11) and L. Gardner (2:14.92) dominated by taking first throw fourth.

The 110 hurdles was won by senior Mark Philpot (17.34) with Miramonte's Drew Gordon (18.62) and Dan Reed (18.71) flying in behind him. Acalanes sophomore Marimikel Charrier (17.25) won the girls 100 hurdles followed by Miramonte's Evon Lin (19.43) and Molly Banks (19.69).

The girls mile race was won by Miramonte's Liz Henderson (5:44.41). Mary Thomas (5:48), Lizzy Block (5:49) and Amy Judy (5:51) filed on next for Acalanes. In the last 50 meters, Acalanes senior Chris Vetek battled with Concord's Chris Carlson for first in the boys mile and

barely defeated him, 4:53.33 to 4:54.38.

Masses of competitors swarmed to Alhambra High on March 27 for the Martinez Relays in which 27 schools participated. Acalanes took first with 37 points.

SWIMMING

Tough Loss Despite Strong Performances

By Ryan Rein
Staff Writer

The Dons took third at the Acalanes Invitational behind Las Lomas and Miramonte on Saturday April 17.

Strong events for the girls came from Katie Walsh in the backstroke, and Sonia Lamel in the breaststroke and I.M.

For the boys, David Peacock got fifth in the 100-yard freestyle, Quinn Fitzgerald took first in both the 200 and 500-yard freestyle, Paul Crawford got second in the backstroke, and Danny Holligan took second in the breaststroke.

The boys' team was successful in two relays. They took first in the 200-yard free relay and second in the 500-yard free relay.

Coach Jeff Miller said, "It was a really good performance. The meet was geared as a warm-up for our League Meet and North Coast Meet which are coming up in the middle and end of May."

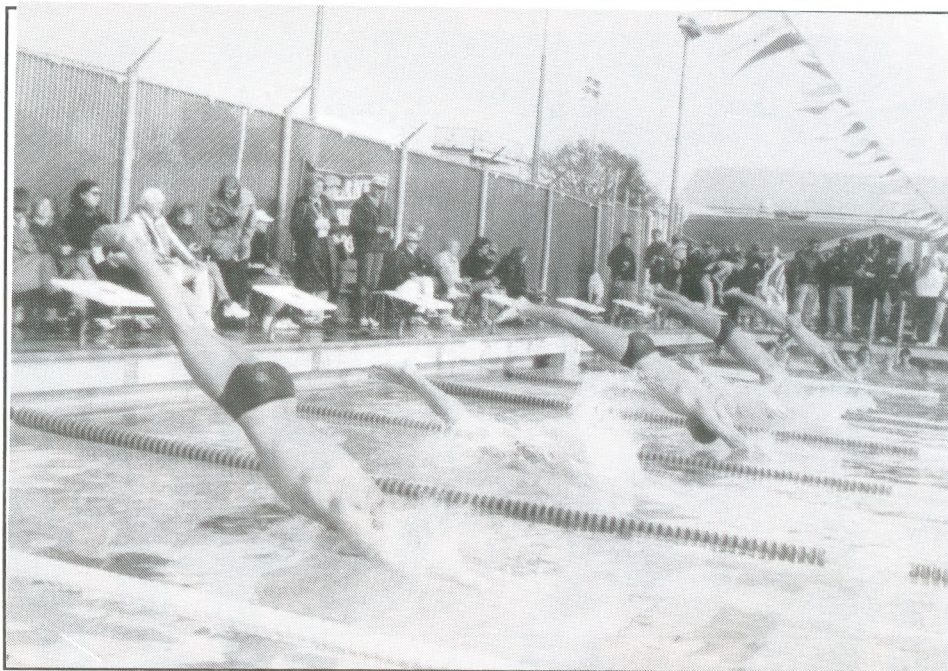
On Wednesday, March 31, the boys AquaDons beat Campolindo by one point and the girls' team lost by 20 points.

Miller was happy with the team's performance as a whole. Campolindo provided serious competition for the Dons because they are one of the area's top teams. "They are swimming very well", said Miller.

Several Acalanes swimmers had stellar performances at the meet. Junior Anne Olson won the 200-yard Freestyle. Senior Devon Chen had a great race in the 100-yard Freestyle. Lamel had a good performance in the 100-yard breaststroke. Walsh competed strongly in the 100-yard backstroke. Fitzgerald had an excellent meet and took first place in the 100-yard butterfly and the 500-yard Freestyle. Holligan scored points in the 100-yard breaststroke. Senior Tim Malone won the 100-yard free-style.

The Dons competed against Freedom at home on April 21 in a dual meet, which was not scored. The Dons had a good performance overall and dominated the meet.

According to Miller, "(The dons) should have a really good shot at doing well at the end of the season. That is what our whole goal is. Our big meets will be the League Meet and North Coast."



Blueprint Photo/

"Swimmers, Take Your Marks!" Swimmers take off in a recent swim meet.

This Could Be Mr. Scott's Bear

By Chris Vetek
Sports Editor

Don't always believe what you read in the newspapers (excluding Blueprint of course).

Your Acalanes Dons golf team was expected to finishing third in league this year, behind Campo and Las Lomas.

Now, the Dons (12-1) stand tall, on par to take the league title after victories over both the Cougars and the Knights on Friday, April 16.

Led by veteran coach Tim Scott (11 years at Acalanes) and a veteran foursome in juniors Brian Duckworth, Conor Deal, Elliot Randall, and senior Tim Childers, this dark horse is the best golf team Acalanes has produced in 11 years, said Scott.

On the 16th, Deal led the way with an amazing 1-under par 35 on Rosmoor Country Club's nine-hole South Course. When the dust settled, Acalanes's 184 was way below both the Cougars (212) and the Knights (201).

The big surprise of the day was fresh-

man Zach Messer, who shot a par 36, for the second lowest score of the match.

The Dons placed third overall at a Carson City, Nevada, tournament last weekend. Randall won the individual title with 72 and 77 scores on the 18-hole course. Duckworth tied for fourth with 76 and 78 performances, as the Dons lost to Carson High and Davis High on the second day.

"We were up on the first day. It hailed and snowed their the second day. That was the first time we've had to play in those conditions this year. Its tougher to keep your focus and stay consistent," said Duckworth, after the tournament.

The girls have faired "fairly well", said Scott, with an 8-5 mark. The May 4th tournament is particularly important for the girls squad, because there isn't an official league for them until next year.

Last year Scott's boys missed a trip to NorCal by a few strokes at the North Coast Tourney. Scott said Acalanes has never taken a team to NorCal before, but he believes this could be the year.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Blueprint Photo/Kobyn Jones

Eric Lee

Despite being a junior on a team with multiple veteran seniors, pitcher Eric Lee seems to be the glue that holds the Acalanes Dons baseball team together. Lee has pitched well on a consistent basis, guiding the Dons to an 11-7 mark through this week. One of Lee's highlight games came against Alhambra on April 13th, when Lee pitched for five strikeouts in 5 innings in the Dons' victory. For his clutch performances on the mound, Lee is Blueprint's Male Athlete of the Issue.

Amy Judy

Coaches and athletes on the Acalanes track team agree that senior middle distance runner Amy Judy is a great team leader both vocally and with her feet. "She brings the team together during warm-ups, cheers for everyone while they race, and always knows how to make you feel better after a terrible race," said junior Shelley Matsutani. Judy ran a 2:32 in the 800 against Miramonte and Concord. "She takes care of what coaches want her to do, and she does an effective job," said coach Manny Myers. For her constant team leadership, Judy earns Blueprint's Female Athlete of the Issue.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker